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THE 100
BEST
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PART 2:
UNDER
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Loan applications highest since 1989

The housing market takes off again

By Robert Miller and Rachel Kelly

HOPES of a sustained summer housing boom received a significant boost yesterday with mortgage lenders reporting that more people are applying for home loans than at any time since September 1989. House prices are now rising faster than the rate of inflation for the first time in seven years.

The news from lenders will cheer the Government and, particularly, Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor of the Exchequer. It appears that genuine house buyers are now beginning to outnumber the number of people who have applied to re-mortgage their homes to get discounted home loans or cash gifts worth up to £9,000.

The boom is being fuelled by tax cuts, rising wages supplemented by share options and City bonuses, and falling mortgage rates, said Rupert Sweeting of the estate agents, Knight Frank. "A year ago, 60 per cent of houses over £1 million went to international buyers, now 65 per cent of buyers in that category are British. Sealed bids are also back, tactics not seen since the mid 1980s."

The Chancellor will argue that the beneficial effect of his quarter per cent cut in interest rates earlier this month to 5.75 per cent will help further the housing market by bringing down the cost of taking out a home loan to the lowest level for more than 30 years. More importantly, from an electoral point of view, is that as house prices begin to take off more and more of the estimated million homeowners with negative equity will be pulled out of the trap.



active equity will be pulled out of the trap.

The Building Societies Association said yesterday that in May mortgage approvals, which are an indication of deals already in the pipeline, were worth £4.2 billion compared with £3.6 billion the previous month. Gross mortgage advances by societies last month were up by more than £600 million to £3.6 billion, the highest since August 1992. The British Bankers' Association reported a 22 per cent monthly increase in net mortgage lending to £696 million.

Gary Marsh of the Halifax, Britain's biggest mortgage lender, said: "These figures would seem to support our view that the housing market is undergoing a sustained recovery, albeit from a very depressed level."

The latest housing market report from the Royal Institution

of Chartered Surveyors reported the best spring market for several years. Ian Perry said: "Our survey shows that there are grounds for optimism but certainly no reason to suppose that there will be a return to the price increases seen in the late 1980s."

More than a third of the 150 estate agents surveyed reported sharp price rises in country property particularly in the South and East Anglia, and an unexpectedly high demand for "character" properties. Some 70 per cent of surveyors reported that prices had gone up in London and the South-East, compared with 17 per cent for the whole country.

Separate figures from Savills show that prices of country houses in the Home Counties in the year to March have risen by 3.6 per cent in the East by one per cent; in the West by 4.9 per cent; and in the North by 1.2 per cent.

Two main trends are driving the recovery, Mr Perry said. "First time buyers have returned and there is a dearth of properties up for sale. We expect to see many more homeowners putting their houses on the market."

A survey from Black Horse Agencies also noted the return of those who do not have a property to sell. It found that 65 per cent of buyers are either first-time buyers or those who do not have a house to sell. Nationally, the agents found that 34 per cent of its buyers were first-time buyers, paying an average of £48,688.

Pennington, page 31



Ladies alone: Lisa Hartley-Rollin and Sarah Matlock having fun in the rain yesterday

Fair ladies defy Ascot rain

By Grace Bradberry
Style Editor

NOT even the weather could dampen the spirits of the women at Ladies' Day yesterday. Rain after all, is nothing new at Ascot. The novelty lay elsewhere in the determination of women to leave their men at home, and enjoy themselves anyway.

Lisa Hartley-Rollin, 26, and her friend Sarah Matlock, 24, both musicians, said their boyfriends were at Ascot on Wednesday. She said: "We thought it would be more fun to make a day of it for ourselves."

Aliza Reger came with her mother, Janet Reger, the lingerie designer, and her friend Suzy Garland. "My husband's been terribly tied up with business. Socially, Ladies' Day is more of a girls' thing anyway," she said.

Traditionalists stuck to the view that a woman should always be accompanied by a man — "someone to help place bets and buy the champagne" as the society public relations guru Liz Brewer put it. Mrs

Thomas Storey, who was there with her daughters, Harriet, 18, and Susannah, 23, said: "Actually I think it's far nicer with a man but my husband is in Manila and I've been coming since I was 17 and didn't intend to miss it."

Despite the women's spirit, the drizzle and grey skies caused ostrich feathers to droop and strappy sandals to be spattered with mud.

But how does the chic racegoer cope with leaden skies and soggy mud? How do the Manolo Blahnik shoes withstand it, and the Philip Treacy hats survive? Is the secret that the best-dressed women take with them an attaché case containing a mac and a change of footwear?

Far from it. Some had changed their outfits at the last minute but most soldiered on in pastels and open-toed sandals. The only visible concessions to the weather were tight, while a thermal vest was the invisible accessory.

The most successful look was black and white, particularly when accompanied by enormous feathered hats. In the Royal Enclosure, very few women were prepared to risk citrus colours. One of the few who brought it off was Mrs Paul Burdell, who wore a stunning suit by Christian Lacroix.

As always, a few apparently inappropriately dressed women penetrated the Royal Enclosure. This year it was Tracy Rose, in a black off-the-shoulder dress with multi-coloured frills, who glided in despite the obvious violation of the dress code.

Ascot's alternative fashion statement

Racing, page 42

Yeltsin sacks three hardline allies

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Yeltsin sacked three of the most powerful figures in the country yesterday, effectively completing a purge of hardliners in the Kremlin and paving the way for a new era of reform in Russia.

In an extraordinary move just days before the second round of the presidential election, the Russian leader acted quickly to dismiss three of his most trusted loyalists after they used force to intimidate rivals in the administration.

There were fears that the incident was the first move in an attempt by the security forces to destabilise Russia and force the cancellation of

the elections, scheduled for July 3.

In a one-line statement the Kremlin announced that General Aleksandr Korzhakov, the presidential security chief, General Mikhail Barsukov, the head of the Federal Security Service, and Oleg Soskovets, the first deputy prime minister, had been removed.

"They began to take too much on themselves and to give too little," said Mr Yeltsin, describing his break with three of the men closest to him.

Rootless sacking, page 16
Leading article, page 23

MPs clear Aitken over arms deals

Jonathan Aitken, the former Treasury Chief Secretary, has been cleared by a committee of MPs of any wrongdoing in the arms-to-Iran affair. The former minister said he was delighted that a report found no evidence that he knew of exports by a company of which he was a former non-executive director.

England revival after shaky start

England were 238 for five at the end of the first day of the second Test at Lord's after an unbroken sixth-wicket stand of 131 between Graham Thorpe and Jack Russell. They wrested the upper hand from the Indian bowlers, who had reduced England to 107 for 5.

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Mother's left arm gives her baby a better start

By Nick Nuttall
Technology Correspondent

SCIENTISTS believe they have discovered why a mother tends to cradle her baby on her left-hand side.

British researchers believe the mother is ensuring that the infant's left ear, which links to the right-hand side of the brain, is free to hear her "melodic" voice and her expressions of affection, which are crucial to the child's development in the weeks after the shock of birth.

Left-sided cradling is probably a vital, instinctive act designed to boost communication and bonding between mother and child. It could also be

crucial to the brain's healthy, long-term development. "The lullaby will not sound the same and will not feel the same with the baby on the other side," say the researchers, from Ham-mersmith Hospital in London, who have published their findings in the medical journal *The Lancet*.

Several theories have been advanced to explain the tendency of mothers to cradle their newborn offspring on their left-hand side. One holds that mothers do it to free their right hand for other jobs. But that idea is challenged by studies that have found that 78 per cent of left-handed mothers also cradle their babies on the left-hand side. Another theory is that

cradling on the left ensures that one of the baby's ears is close to the mother's heart where the child can hear the comforting beats it heard in the womb.

Dr Harry Sieradzki, of Hammersmith's paediatrics and neonatology department, and Professor Benise Wolf, based in the department of clinical communication studies, believe the key is the need of the child to hear as clearly as possible what they call the mother's melodic voice.

Further, although language is processed by both sides of the brain, it is the right-hand side, fed most powerfully by the left ear, which processes tones, melody and emotional meaning for the child.

"After the trauma of birth," the article says, "the infant needs reassurance. To make the link, the mother offers her feelings through touch, gestures, facial expressions and particularly through sounds."

"These sounds compose a melody without many or any words which show remarkable similarity across cultures. All this," the article adds, "originates from a deep-seated maternal instinct. Even deaf mothers vocalise to young deaf infants, although neither can hear the sounds."

The researchers add that the instinct is not confined to mothers: they say 80 per cent of fathers also cradle their babies on the left-hand side.

Major hopes to fight final beef battle in Florence

By Philip Webster and Charles Bremner
in Florence and Jill Sherman in London

JOHN MAJOR flew into Florence last night claiming he was hours away from a deal to end the beef crisis. But he had been humiliated and routed and from his fellow leaders that his tactics had damaged the European Union.

The Prime Minister arrived here for the two-day summit ready to accept the broad outlines of the Brussels plan put forward to end the four-week-old "beef war". He will indicate today that he will end the British policy of non-cooperation if the summit approves the plan for a stage-by-stage raising of the beef ban and if it makes plain that it is ready to do so without conditions in the final communiqué tomorrow afternoon.

One of Britain's key remaining demands, which Mr Major will press for today, is for a lifting of the ban on exports to third countries.

As fellow leaders arrived at the summit it was by no means certain that Mr Major would get a clear run. There were indications that Germany might insist on tighter political control of the ban-lifting process. Mr Major would be forced to oppose such a move and a senior German diplomat said last night: "Don't bet on a deal."

Even so there was a mood of greater optimism that one of the most unhappy periods in recent EU history might be coming to an end. Professor Romano Prodi, the Italian Prime Minister and summit chairman, said: "The worst is over."

French officials said President Chirac could live with the Commission approach. Mr Major left behind him a

deeply dissatisfied Tory party and a farming industry furious at the Government's decision to increase the cull programme to cover tens of thousands more animals born in 1989.

In a move to placate them the Government announced that they would get a "significantly" higher level of compensation for cows in that category than the £480 given for those slaughtered under the blanket destruction of cattle aged over 30 months.

Downing Street estimates that only an additional 25,000 cows would have to be slaughtered before the end of their working lives as the result of the new cull.

The Ministry of Agriculture is now negotiating with the National Farmers Union and the European Commission over the size of compensation payments.

MPs were despondent that the Government had been forced to make further concessions on the slaughter of cattle without getting a firm timetable for the lifting of the ban, although Mr Major said yesterday he hoped it could start in the autumn. Tory MPs were angry but resigned.

Although some have privately threatened to rebel there were no signs last night of a large-scale revolt because most believe that it would do nothing to help the already hard-pressed farming industry.

But the Liberal Democrats will attempt to exploit Tory differences in an all-day

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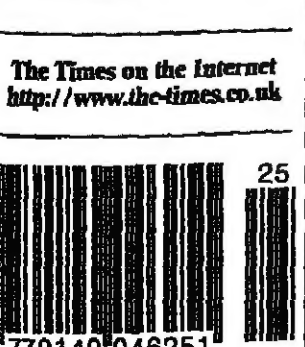
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Blair's principles send up smoke signals

Just when you think John Major is about to crumple, he jumps up and biffs you on the nose. Just when you expect Tony Blair to put the boot in, he seems to falter.

The proposed European deal on BSE was the news. Before PM's Questions yesterday, Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, had gone his 12 rounds in the ring at questions, emerging, as he has throughout, battered but conscious. Mr Hogg looked exhausted: fed up with defending what was plainly one of those hard-traded and halfway decent compromises that characterise European politics, as though it was some kind of new Jerusalem, against those ready to de-

nounce it as the end of History.

At the dispatch box Hogg has performed without conspicuous poise but with a doggedness, intelligence and rationality which, in some times, might attract praise. He tries to answer the question. His Labour Shadow, Gavin Strang, questions fairly-mindedly and sounds honest if occasionally clumsy.

It is their seniors who seem to be the problem. Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, slipped briefly into the Chamber some months ago, sparking a BSE panic which Harriet Harman (his Labour Shadow) inflamed. Odd how Dorrell seems to have sided from the scene, leaving Hogg besieged



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

on all sides. Odd how he has been allowed to — but then media people like Dorrell. He is somehow one of them in a way Hogg is not.

At 3.15, then, Major entered the Chamber for what most imagined (and hatchet-faced Tory Eurosceptics hoped) would be a serious drubbing from Blair. Eurosceptical faces fell as the PM mounted an angry, cogent and convinced defence of the Brussels offer, receiving noisier backing from his troops than was expected. When it came to Europe, he

said, Mr Blair "rolls over on his back with his feet in the air".

Feet in the air or not, the Labour leader panted it noisily but with a strange lack of passion. Critics may say this was because Blair's argument was unprincipled — but that never deflected Robin Cook, his foreign affairs spokesman, from magnificent parliamentary performances. I believe it is because Mr Blair is a principled person underneath that, when constrained to behave in a slippery fashion, a

sort of misery shows through. Paddy Ashdown attacked with real punch but then, having opposed Major's tactics from the start, he felt entitled to.

Iain Duncan-Smith (C, Chingford) mocked Blair: "Paleface speak with forked tongue," he said. Madam Speaker will know that her predecessor-but-one in the Chair ruled "forked tongue" out of order in 1978, but yesterday she did not demur. Perhaps she has decided that in a world of porkies and pigs' bladders (both allowed), forked tongues are the least of her worries and may slip through. Still, we were left with an odd picture: Tony Blair, pale-faced on his back, his feet in the air and

forked tongue sticking out. How might this be achieved by hologram? I ask because at Business Questions Sir Terence Higgins (C, Worthing) suggested the Chamber might be stocked with holographic images of MPs. Concerned that TV monitors in offices are drawing Members from the Chamber, Higgins wondered whether filling their seats with holograms might reassure the public.

May we respectfully suggest that the opposite might be more reassuring? If we could lock the real MPs into the Chamber, leaving computer-generated images to carry on the business of politics outside, the whole nation might sleep easier.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Schools 'spending too little on books'

State schools are spending less than half the amount they need to provide pupils with books to cover the National Curriculum properly, according to a Book Trust report. Research by the independent charity found that the average primary school was spending £14.21 per pupil on books when £45 was the minimum required to do justice to the nine-subject curriculum. In secondary schools, the gap is wider, according to the report. On average, £27.54 is being spent on books, compared with an estimated requirement of £84 beyond the age of 11. The study suggests that some schools are being distracted by the need to buy expensive computers and CD-Roms.

Tanker pilot demoted

The pilot in charge of the *Sea Empress* oil tanker when she ran aground in February and polluted the Welsh coast has been demoted after a two-day inquiry into his conduct. John Pearn, 34, was found guilty of incompetence under the 1987 Pilotage Act by a tribunal set up by the Milford Haven Port Authority. His pilotage licence will be amended so that he will not be authorised to handle ships bigger than 90,000 tonnes. Mr Pearn plans to appeal.

Constituency clash

Mike Watson, Labour MP for Glasgow Central, took his party to court in a battle to prevent this weekend's ballot for the candidacy of Glasgow Govan. Mr Watson is involved in a bitter clash with Mohammad Sarwar over the nomination. In the original contest, last December, Mr Watson beat Mr Sarwar by one vote, but there were allegations of ballot-rigging, and Mr Sarwar's supporters claimed that 52 votes were unfairly disallowed.

Man held on IRA charge

A man charged with being a member of the IRA was remanded in custody when he appeared in court in the Irish Republic yesterday. Michael O'Neill, 45, of Patrickswell, Co Limerick, was also charged with having a firearm with intent to endanger life. Mr O'Neill was held under the Offences Against the State Act on Tuesday. The Special Criminal Court in Dublin remanded him in custody for five days. *Peace prediction, page 8*

Extradition ordered

An Algerian was ordered by Belmarsh Magistrates' Court in southeast London yesterday to be extradited to France on murder and terrorism charges. Rachid Ramda, 26, had lived in Wembley, north London, for three years as a refugee when he was arrested last November after the Paris Metro bombing in which seven people were killed. His lawyer, Gareth Peirce, hopes to challenge the extradition order in the High Court.

Cantona defends name

Lawyers acting for Eric Cantona, the Manchester United footballer, applied in the High Court for an injunction to stop companies producing wine, brandy and other drinks using his name. He wants the directors of Cantona French Wines Ltd, Cantona French Brandy Ltd and Cantona Pour Homme Ltd to change the names of their companies. Lord Justice Knox adjourned the hearing.

Penguin boss quits

Peter Mayer, chairman of Penguin books for 18 years, is to leave — partly for a less hectic lifestyle. "I was jet-lagged all the time, flying to London, New Delhi, Johannesburg and New York," he said. Mr Mayer, 60, an American who preferred jeans and a T-shirt to a business suit, turned the loss-making Penguin into a company with reported profits of £34 million. *Valerie Grove, page 20*

Warden 'joke' costs £125

Dave Light, 53, a gas fitter, hung a traffic warden doll from mock gallows on his van roof, Cheltenham magistrates were told yesterday. His "joke" ended in his conviction for a public order offence. Light, of Cheltenham, who said that he detested traffic wardens, was given a conditional discharge for 12 months and ordered to pay £125 costs. The doll cost £1.50.

Mandela state visit

President Mandela of South Africa will crown his state visit to Britain next month with an appearance on the balcony of South Africa House, in Trafalgar Square. He will go to the Embassy, for years the focus of "Free Mandela" demonstrations, on the last day of his four-day visit, Buckingham Palace said yesterday. He will also go on a walkabout in the square and visit Brixton, south London.

Stonehenge on the net

The midsummer sunrise over Stonehenge will be available to a much wider audience than the Druids congregating there for tonight's summer solstice. English Heritage is making the ancient monument on Salisbury Plain available on the Internet. Sir Jocelyn Stevens, English Heritage's chairman, launched a virtual-reality model of the site with ten "timewalks" from 8,000 BC to AD 2000.

Aitken exonerated by MPs over arms to Iran charges

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JONATHAN AITKEN, the former Treasury Chief Secretary, was cleared by a committee of MPs yesterday of any wrongdoing in the arms-to-Iran affair.

Mr Aitken said he was "delighted" that the Commons report found no evidence that he knew of exports to Iran by a company of which he was a former non-executive director.

The Trade and Industry Select Committee, said after a year-long inquiry that "none of the allegations made against Mr Aitken have been substantiated".

Mr Aitken resigned from the Cabinet after facing a string of damaging accusa-

tions, including that he knew, or should have known, that BMARC, a Lincolnshire arms manufacturer, was breaking Government guidelines by exporting components to Iran.

He is still engaged in a long-running legal battle over allegations in *The Guardian* and Granada Television's *World in Action* programme about his links with Arab businessmen. The row erupted again yesterday when lawyers from Granada tried to have a press conference on the report cancelled, claiming that it could prejudice a future libel trial.

Although Mr Aitken said he hoped to return to government, friends said that he does not expect a recall until his

libel actions have been completed. Before resigning to concentrate on his legal action, Mr Aitken vowed to wield a "sword of truth" against a "cancer of bent and twisted journalism".

Mr Aitken repeatedly denied claims by Gerald James, the former chairman of BMARC's parent company, that he knew of the exports to Iran, claiming he believed the contract, Project Lisi, involved sales to Singapore.

Mr Aitken said: "I feel I have been cleared, exonerated and vindicated by this committee and its judgment. This is a major breakthrough for me in the process of clearing my name and I am very, very pleased that it is happened in the way it has."

The MPs were scathing about Mr James's evidence, describing it as "incredible". The report said: "On the matters we have examined in detail, Mr James has proved to be a highly unreliable witness and we do not believe any purpose would be served by investigating his allegations further."

The report into export licensing and the role played by BMARC concludes that it was "likely" that 20mm naval cannon built from components made by BMARC were supplied to the Iranian navy in breach of Government guidelines.

The MPs criticised the way the firm was repeatedly granted export licences by the Government to supply arms to Singapore, despite intelligence warnings suggesting the real destination was Iran.

It said the affair exposed "major weaknesses" in the licensing procedures and called on the Government to appoint a senior civil servant to oversee the whole system.



Jonathan Aitken leaves his Westminster home for the Commons to hear MPs clear him of all blame

Although the committee said it was likely that only a small proportion of the 140 guns sold to Singapore in Project Lisi reached Iran, it was critical of the failure of the DTI, which issued the export licences, to pick up on intelligence warnings that could have linked the firm to Tehran.

The DTI was first advised in 1985 that BMARC's then owners, the Swiss arms firm Oerlikon, could be trading with an unspecified "sensitive destination" and the company was placed on the depart-

ment's "watch list". In 1988, further intelligence reports were circulated to the DTI, and to the Ministry of Defence and the Foreign Office which were also involved in monitoring export licence applications, referring to "naval guns and ammunition being supplied by Oerlikon to Iran by a company in Singapore".

The committee's report adds: "Ideally, and with hindsight, the 1988 intelligence should have prompted an examination of whether Oerlikon had any UK subsidiaries."

Major hopes to end 'beef war' in Florence

Continued from page 1

debate on the beef crisis which they have called for next Tuesday, 24 hours after John Major's Commons statement on the Florence summit.

Before leaving London Mr Major was subjected to a withering attack from Tony Blair, the Labour leader. During a fierce question time clash Mr Blair said Mr Major was so desperate to extract himself from the mess he had got Britain into that he would settle for anything. He pointed out that Mr Major had failed to secure lifting of the third country ban, there was no additional compensation and no time-

table. "There is humiliation, there is ignominy in this deal. In fact it is not a deal, it is a rout," Mr Blair declared to rousing Labour cheers.

A defiant Mr Major defended his handling of the crisis. He said that for eight weeks after the ban was imposed nothing was offered by the rest of Europe. Now four weeks after the process of non-cooperation began agreement was close.

There would have been no chance of agreement but for the policy of non-cooperation, he insisted. "We are now within a few hours, with luck, of getting agreement in Florence. We are

close to an agreement that is in the interests of the British agricultural industry."

Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, said: "Isn't it now perfectly clear that having marched your troops once again to the top of the hill in Brussels, you are now again engaged in uselessly marching them back down again."

But in television interviews before he set off for Florence an angry Mr Major insisted that "not a single extra cow" would be slaughtered under the new deal. He emphasised that the average age for a cow to be slaughtered was 6

years and 6 months so many of the estimated 67,000 cows now over 7 years old would have been killed anyway.

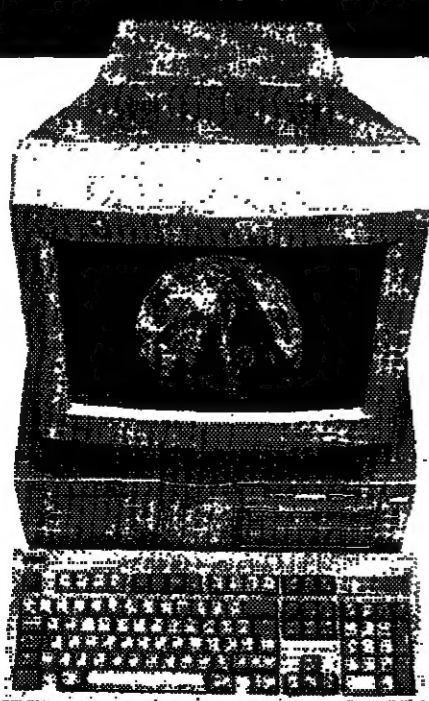
But Mr Major could face a strained two days. His European colleagues will be pleased to see the non-cooperation policy lifted but some will be keen to let him know how much they disapprove of the way he has behaved.

Franz Vranitzky, the Austrian Chancellor, said that many countries had lost patience with Britain. "In three decades of European integration they have never been confronted with this kind of attitude," he said.

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Police seek Noye 'alias' in hunt for road rage killer

By JOANNA BALE
AND ADRIAN LEE

POLICE investigating the "road-rage" murder of Stephen Cameron yesterday named a man they want to question as Anthony Francis — the same name as an alias once used by the Brink's-Mat robber, Kenneth Noye.

Detectives said Mr Francis moved from a house in Bexley, southeast London, six miles from the murder scene, around the time of the incident. They had been unable to trace him. He is the registered owner of a Land Rover Discovery similar to that driven by the man who stabbed 21-year-old Mr Cameron on a slip road of the M25 at Swanley, Kent, on May 19.

Police called at the house in Bexley during routine checks into local owners of Discoveries, but found that he had moved out without telling neighbours where he was going. He owns a dark blue-grey vehicle, registration number L794 JTF. He is described as being in his late twenties or early thirties, 6ft tall, of stocky build and white.

Detective Superintendent Nick Biddiss, who is leading the investigation, said yesterday that he would like to speak to Mr Noye, 47, who went to Spain the day after the killing and was then said to have moved to Northern Cyprus.

Several people who telephoned the police pointed out that he looked similar to the photo of the killer. Officially, detectives have maintained that Noye is not a suspect and have urged him to come forward to eliminate him from their inquiries.

It emerged last night that Noye had assumed the identity



Stephen Cameron: he was stabbed to death

ward. We have interviewed many owners of Land Rover Discoveries and obviously we have had to prioritise those nearest to where the murder took place and in the majority of cases the owners have been discounted.

"However, we have not satisfactorily been able to discount Mr Francis. He lived at the address with two women and if anyone has any information we would like to hear from them.

"We have spoken to people in the area and they do not know him or where he is. So far in the investigation the public's response has been overwhelming and their information has provided valuable leads. If they see this car with a man fitting the description driving down the M1 or wherever, they should let us know immediately."

Mr Biddiss told a news conference at the incident room in Canterbury: "I believe Mr Francis may have some important information. We have got to find Mr Francis, who is shown as the registered owner of the vehicle. Other people have left his home but we have interviewed two females."

The three-bedroom, Victorian semi-detached cottage at Bexley was deserted yesterday. Mr Francis's name does not appear on the electoral register, only that of Irene Gatula. Neighbours said two young women lived there but moved out in May.

Tony Gardner, 55, a roofer, said he had seen a Land Rover Discovery parked outside the house twice. "There were two girls living there until the weekend of the murder, but it has been empty since. There was a man who seemed to be the landlord, but his name was not Francis and we never spoke."

"We were glad the girls went because virtually every weekend there was a party there. The music was loud and there were always people coming and going."

Another neighbour, Beryl Mills, said: "The house was empty for ages, then someone bought it about a year ago and did it up. The only person I have seen living there was a young black woman who moved out in May. I saw a lot of men coming and going, but no one in particular. I never spoke to the woman and I never saw a Land Rover Discovery parked there."



The house in Bexley where Mr Francis, owner of an L-registered Land Rover Discovery, was living



Delilah Seale with her half-brother Orlando, left. Patrick Seale put his name to her birth certificate although he knew he was not her father

Martin Amis and his secret daughter: happy ending to a tragic love story

By CAROL MIDDLEY

A 20-YEAR-OLD student at Oxford University has discovered that she is the secret daughter of the novelist Martin Amis.

Delilah Seale spent most of her life believing that her natural father was the journalist Patrick Seale, who raised her from birth. Last year, however, Mr Seale decided to tell her the truth about notifying Amis of his intention by letter.

Amis and Miss Seale, who bears a striking resemblance to her father, then met for the first time and have since formed a close relationship. The author now describes his daughter as "delightful... very bright and sweet and altogether charming."

Yesterday Mr Seale, 62, a former Middle East correspondent, said: "It has all gone very smoothly. I am glad to say there appears to have been a happy ending. I am very close to Delilah, we have a wonderful relationship and it will remain that way. The only thing now is that she has two fathers."

Miss Seale, from South Kensington, central London, was born after a brief affair between Amis and her mother, Lamorna Heath, in 1975. Heath, a novelist who was married to Mr Seale but



Lamorna Heath had a brief affair with Martin Amis in 1975 after a temporary separation from her husband. She committed suicide three years later



separated at the time, later returned to her husband.

Mr Seale always knew that he was not the natural father, but put his name on her birth certificate and raised her alongside his son, Orlando, now an actor with the Royal Shakespeare Company.

Lamorna Heath committed suicide in 1978, at the age of 27, suffering from depression. Amis was then 30 and just beginning to establish his literary reputation with *The Rachel Papers* and *Dead Babies*.

Mr Seale said that he then made a pact with his mother-in-law that, when Delilah was "about 21", they would tell her the truth.

In an interview with the *Daily Express*, Amis said: "When Lamorna told me (soon after the birth) about Delilah looking like me, of course I had my suspicions. But I did not feel it was my place to interfere. I was just a young man with nothing to give a child. I knew that Patrick was a caring, loving father and that Delilah would be happy with him and her brother. I was

shocked, but not surprised, when I received the letter from Patrick telling me he thought it was time to tell Delilah about me. I had often thought about her and talked about her to my mother, who has now instantly accepted her as a grand-daughter and I am only sorry that she didn't get to meet my father before he died."

Amis, who is about to become a father again with his girlfriend, Isabel Fonseca, said in an interview in the *Daily Express* that he and Delilah first met about a year

ago. They spent a "strange and wonderful" evening, talking over drinks and dinner in an "easy and affectionate" atmosphere.

He now intends to spend a lot of time with her and has introduced her to Miss Fonseca. She has also met his sons from his marriage to Antonia Phillips and often visits his home in Notting Hill, though she still lives with Mr Seale.

Mr Seale said that when he first told Delilah about Amis, she was "a bit shattered", but added: "It is true that there has been no romance or bitterness whatsoever. It has all turned out amicably. In truth these things happen all the time, you just don't hear about them."

"Parenting is becoming a completely different thing these days. More and more people are bringing up other people's children. The fact that Delilah isn't my real daughter has never made any difference to me and it never will."

"It is not the child's natural parent who is important, more the relationship one has with the child. She is still a great deal closer to me than to Martin and it will remain that way."

Miss Seale, who is reading history at St Hugh's, Oxford, is currently on a three-month holiday in Latin America.

DJs mix it with England's finest as victory edges closer to home

By PETER FOSTER

RADIO stations are keeping pace with England's triumphant start to Euro 96 by customising the squad's official theme tune, *Three Lions*. The day after England's 4-1 victory over Holland, inventive disc jockeys had grafted snippets of the match commentary on to the anthem that has helped to rally fans behind the team.

The song, with the refrain "Football's coming home", is blasted out across the Wembley Stadium tannoy to rouse the England fans and is number four in the chart, having been number 1 for a week.

Customising records to steal a march on competitors is a growing trend in commercial radio, according to Paul Sexton, of *Music Monitor*: "Modern technology and an increasing number of radio sports channels means sta-

tion can tailor songs to their own audiences: cutting in the latest commentary to make a sort of musical news bulletin."

David Seaman, the England goalkeeper, has said the tune has become the team's anthem on the way to and from matches. The lyrics recall England's past glories and great players such as Nobby Stiles, Bobby Moore and Gary Lineker, ending with the refrain: "I know that was then, but it could be again."

The original lyric to *Three Lions*, by Frank Skinner and David Baddiel, the presenters of *Fantasy Football League*, includes archive material from England's victory over West Germany in the 1966 World Cup final.

London's Capital Radio made its own version by replacing the 1966 excerpts with those of their sports commentator Jonathan Pearce, whose feverish style is in the Brazilian mould, yelling "Go go go go!" whenever England scores. David Jensen,

host of Capital's afternoon show *Drivetime*, said: "After the Holland match technical staff worked until 3.30am to prepare the latest mix. It evokes the euphoria that we all felt after that match."

BBC Radio One has also started to re-mix the song using excerpts from Radio 5 Live commentary. Chris Whatnough, producer for Simon Mayo's late morning show, said the station would be making another mix after England's next match even if they were knocked out of the tournament.

Epic Records said the single, which has sold more than 400,000 copies in five weeks, had started to climb the charts again. The re-mixes will not be made available to the public.

Fantasy Football, pages 44, 45
Team guide, page 48
Italian turmoil, page 49
England prepare, page 52

A man of the century dies happy

A TELEGRAM from the Queen was George Cole's final ambition as he neared his 100th birthday. When the big day came, he received the royal message with delight. Then he died.

Content in the knowledge that his dream had come true, the retired market gardener drifted off to sleep and passed away just after lunch at the Pittville Lawn Nursing Home, in Cheltenham, missing his own birthday party.

Mr Coles, from Mickleton, Hereford and Worcester, had been a widower since March, when his wife Christie died aged 96. His daughter Diana said: "It was his one remaining ambition to reach 100 and he did it."

A spokeswoman at the nursing home, Jean Barrie, said: "He longed for that telegram. On the morning of his birthday, he got up and said, 'Now I'm an old man.'"

Tormented lawyer landed punch in railway queue

By ROBIN YOUNG

A SOLICITOR who knocked out a former female employee's tooth with a punch said yesterday that he had "snapped" when she goaded him at a railway station.

Ian Newbery, 42, of Bourne-mouth, told the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal that Kate Youngs had pursued a professional vendetta against him after leaving to join a rival.

He said that he finally lost patience when both went to Bournemouth station for a train to the High Court in London. "Mrs Youngs approached me in the queue and said, 'You're finished, you'll never get a penny', and so on. I snapped and hit her."

Newbery was conditionally charged and ordered to pay £50 costs after pleading guilty at Weymouth Magistrates' Court to assaulting Mrs Youngs. Yesterday he told the

tribunal in London that she had been his secretary in 1987, and after setting up his practice he employed her as a secretary in 1991. He described her as "a strong-minded woman" and said that by 1994 she was becoming difficult to control and made insulting references to staff and clients.

Newbery said Mrs Youngs was intent on "rocking the boat" before she left for another employer. She did not mark important files for review or enter court dates in the diary, and approached clients to attract them to her new employer, he claimed.

When he submitted a bill of £42,000 to a client who had moved to Mrs Youngs' new employer, she supported the client in challenging the amount and claimed that the work had not been done properly although it was work

she had done. High Court action was begun against him, Newbery said, as a result of which a Law Society accountant spent three days going through his books, but found no impropriety.

By January 1995, Newbery said, his business and personal overdrafts were above their limits, and two staff had to be made redundant. He received reports that Mrs Youngs had been "bad-mouthing" him about the town, and was saying that she would get him struck off as a bankrupt.

"I feel as if I am the victim," he said, adding that he did not know why Mrs Youngs had pursued her vendetta.

The tribunal said that Newbery would not be struck off because it had been "an isolated aberration". He was fined £2,000 and ordered to pay £620 costs.

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People unfit to work with boys try to join Scouts

By Gillian Bowditch, Scotland Correspondent

ABOUT 70 people unsuitable to work with children try to get access to them through the Scouts every year, the inquiry into the Dunblane massacre was told yesterday.

David Shermidine, chief executive of the Scout Association in Scotland, said in a letter that the association's UK records office in Lancing, West Sussex, vetted around 1,000 people a week. These included parents, helpers and scout leaders, all of whom had "substantial access" to children.

Mr Shermidine, who has already given oral evidence to the inquiry into the massacre of 16 children and their teacher by Thomas Hamilton in March, said that the records office also ran a check on around 400 people a week who had applied for specific posts in it, in addition to one carried out locally.

Between 15 and 20 people a week required further checks. Some of them would be found to be "not entirely satisfactory" in a particular role, while others were checked against press cuttings of paedophile cases.

Mr Shermidine said "a fluctuating number" needed further follow-up but on average the association discovered half a dozen individuals every month who were totally unsuitable to working with children and who were trying to infiltrate the Scouts.

The inquiry has already heard that Hamilton was thrown out of the Scouts for failing to take proper care of boys on a trip to Aviemore. He subsequently bore a grudge against the association.

The Police Federation will today call for a total ban on the private ownership of handguns in its evidence. Fred Broughton, its chairman, said: "So long as it is possible for individuals to have legal access to handguns, the possibility of a lone psychopath going on a sudden killing spree remains a constant nightmare."

"After the Hungerford massacre in 1987 everyone said

"never again". The law was tightened in respect of some weapons, but this did not prevent another tragedy nine years later.

"People have been shocked to discover that, even after Hungerford and the 1987 Firearms Act, the Dunblane killer was able to hold a private arsenal and a huge stock of ammunition."

"Because no screening system can guarantee to exclude every potential mass killer, we have to put the interests of the public before those of the shooting fraternity."

"Frankly, we do not know what answer government would be able to give to the relatives of another such massacre if it involved legally held handguns."

In the document delivered to Lord Cullen, who is chairing the inquiry, the federation, which represents 126,000 officers up to the rank of chief inspector in England and Wales, adds: "We do not know how many more Ryans and Hamiltons are current owners of legal handguns."

The British Shooting Sports Council said it was wrong to pre-empt the inquiry and suggested that the police were trying to deflect possible criticism.

The inquiry had been told earlier that new vetting procedures are in place in Stirling, the district that covers Dunblane, for people running children's groups and seeking to use council premises. These include a criminal records check, two referees, relevant qualifications, an interview with council officials, and a code of practice, Gordon Jeyes, Stirling's director of education, said.

New security measures at Dunblane primary school included an extra janitor, a telephone in every classroom, closed-circuit television, a reception desk, and the presence of a policeman. A new £24,000 integrated security system was also being installed at the school, which will include electronic keypad access for buildings.



Eighty years after he went over the top, Robert Burns will return to the scene of battle

Centenarian returns to honour Somme comrades

EIGHTY years to the day after he was given the order to "go over the top" at the start of the bloody Battle of the Somme, Robert Burns, 100, will pay tribute to his fallen comrades at the Cameron Highlanders' memorial in northern France.

Mr Burns, a native of Gourrock, near Glasgow, is one of a handful of surviving First World War veterans who are travelling to France on the eightieth anniversary of the opening onslaught on July 1, 1916.

By the end of that first day 57,470 men lay dead or wounded, the largest one-day casualty list in British military history. Only 75 out of the 800 soldiers in Mr Burns's 7th Battalion survived the four months of the pointless confrontation. By then more than one million men had died.

Mr Burns enlisted in November 1914 and chose the Inverness-based Cameron Highlanders because his mother had bought him a Cameron kilt when he was a boy. By then his businessman father, Felix, brother Jack, and sister Grace and Netta, who were given Army clerical jobs, had all joined the Colours. The



Burns the Cameron Highlander in 1914

19-year-old clerk with the Legal and General Insurance Company in Glasgow kept a shorthand diary of his entire war service. He has now presented that record to the Imperial War Museum, in London, to add to the first-hand accounts of the war.

Mr Burns, who now lives in a home in Wokingham, Berkshire, run by a cinema industry charity, had a successful career as a manager of big cinemas and ballrooms in

England before becoming a hotelier. He said: "I can remember as clear as a bell what happened on the opening day of the Battle of the Somme."

"I want to remember so many colleagues of mine who did not come home. It was four o'clock in the morning when we got the order to go over the top. A fierce bombardment from our side was supposed to have softened up the German lines, but it was quite clear early on that everything was not going to plan."

"Shells were exploding everywhere amongst us. It was sheer bloody murder... We got about 250 yards across no-man's land... I particularly remember talking above the din to a comrade near me during the advance. When he did not reply I looked round and he was gone. He had taken a direct hit from a shell and was no more."

Mr Burns survived the Somme but was badly wounded the following Christmas.

Immediately after the Armistice in November 1918, the day before his 23rd birthday, he put his war diary in an envelope and did not open it again for almost 75 years.

Valuers not liable for home slump

By Frances Gibb

VALUERS who overrate properties won a landmark ruling in the House of Lords yesterday that they are not liable for billions of pounds' compensation to cover lending banks' investment losses.

The law lords said there should be a limit on the amount of compensation payable by valuers where properties have plummeted in price. The decision was a relief to surveyors and their insurers, who feared they might be made liable to compensate banks for £1 billion of investment losses stemming from negligent overvaluations.

Lord Hoffmann and four law lords ruled that the amount of compensation payable should be limited to the difference between the valuation negligently provided and the correct property value at the time of the valuation.

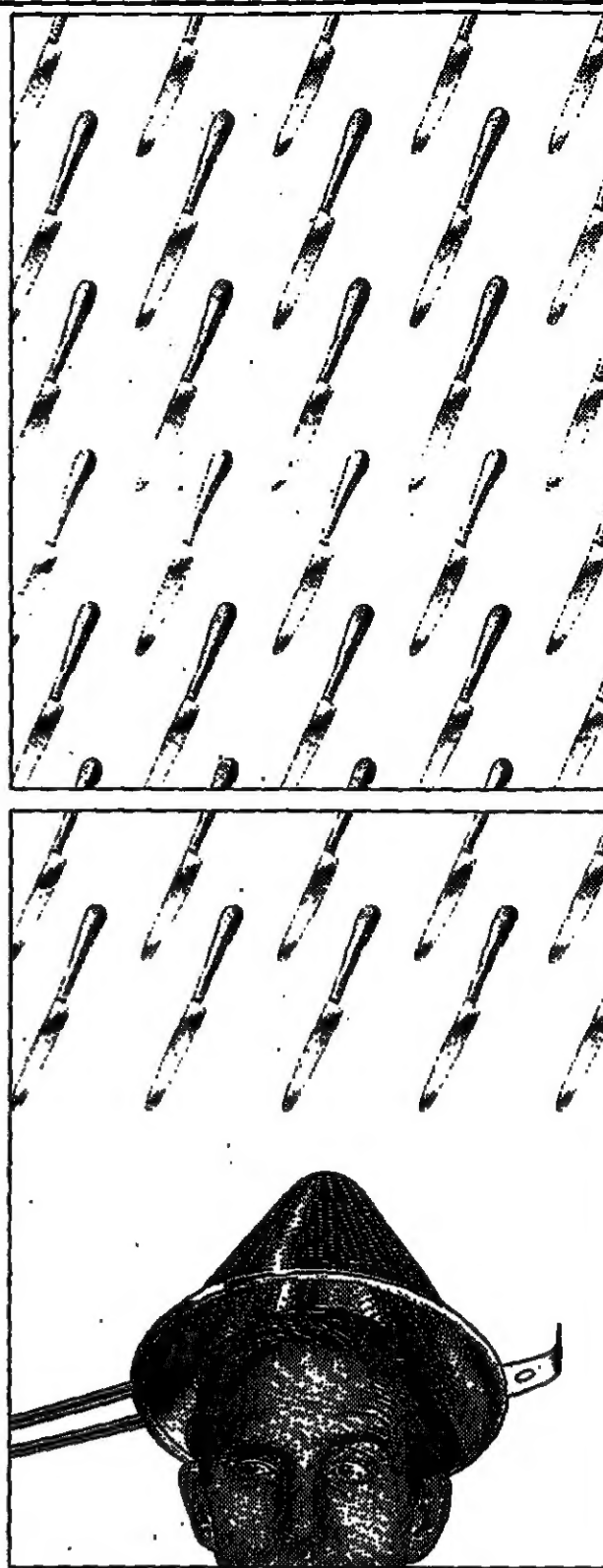
Banks will therefore not be able to recover their total losses suffered as a result of falling prices. Many banks failed to recoup their loans in the late 1980s because of the slump and have argued that, had they known the true value of properties, they would not have risked the investment.

The ruling, in three appeals heard together, overturns a Court of Appeal decision which said that mortgage lenders were entitled to recover the whole of their losses, including any loss arising from a fall in property prices.

The ruling stems from a case in 1993 brought by Banque Bruxelles Lambert against Eagle Star and the valuers John D. Wood. The High Court ruled that valuers should not be liable for the full loss, but that was overturned by the Court of Appeal last year. BBL settled with Eagle Star, the mortgage indemnity provider, after John D. Wood ran out of professional indemnity cover, but other banks pressed ahead with cases.

There have been many negligence actions against valuers, mainly arising from the property boom of 1988 to 1991 and its subsequent fall.

Sir James Goldsmith resumed UK residency some time ago after a brief spell abroad (report, June 19). He is, of course, a UK citizen.



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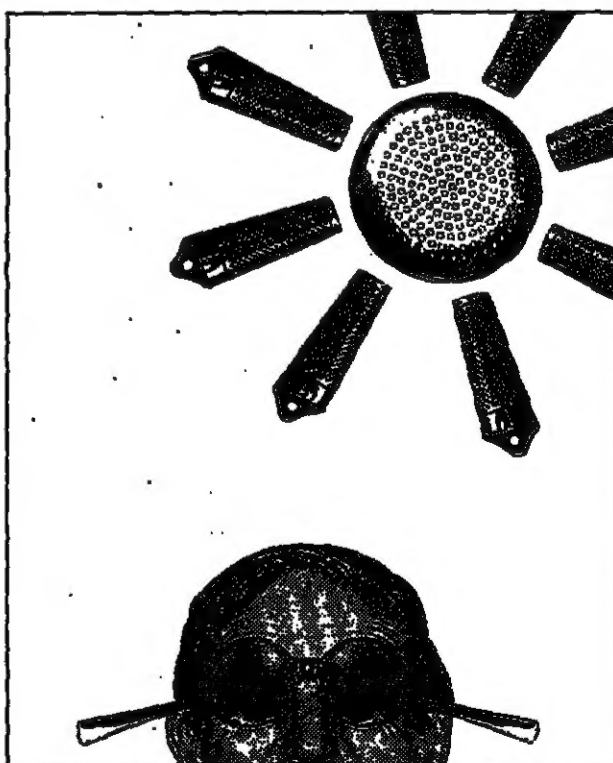
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Experts expect spirited bids for 17th century witch report

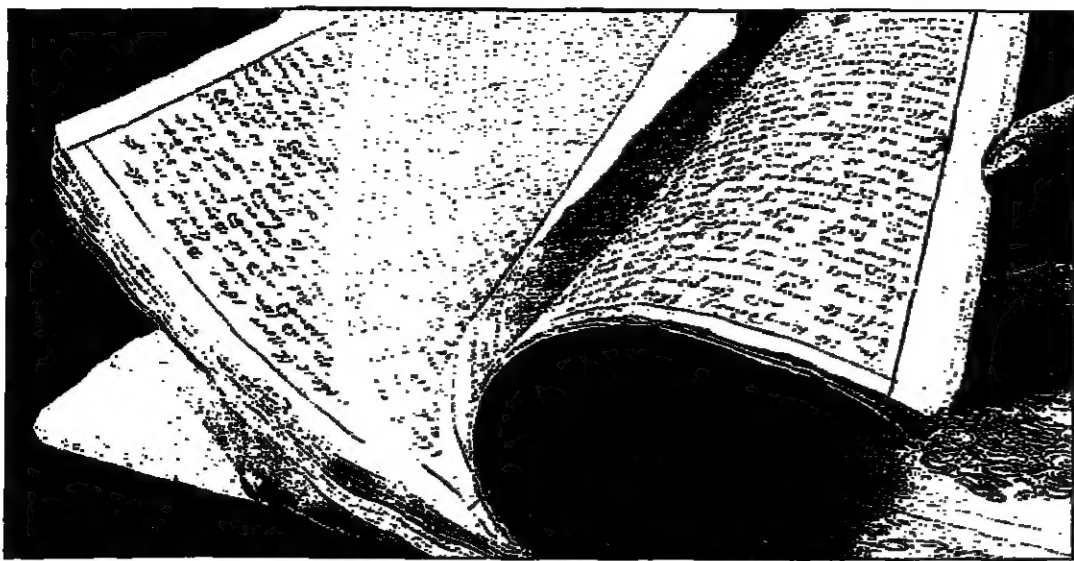
By Emma Wilkins

A RARE report on witchcraft, regarded as one of Britain's earliest "X files" of the unexplained, is to be auctioned next month. The great uncle of Sir Thomas Fairfax, commander-in-chief of Cromwell's New Model Army, wrote the account claiming that his daughters suffered visions and torments because of witches in 17th century Yorkshire.

It is believed that Edward Fairfax was motivated by a need to counteract local suspicion that his children were possessed by ghosts or fairies — which he regarded as ignorant superstition — rather than witches, whose existence he firmly accepted.

His daughters Hellen, 16 and Elizabeth, 7, fell into trances almost daily and saw terrifying visions of the Devil in the parish of Fuystone — now called Fewston, six miles north of Otley near Leeds. Their torments, said to be caused by six witches, were shared by Marod Jeffery, 12, the daughter of a local yeoman, who, with her friends, "underwent many Strange Convulsions, Risings in the Bodys, and Stiffness in their Arms and Heads".

The strange events pre-date the witch trials of Salem, Massachusetts, by some 70 years. The account, titled *A Discourse of Witchcraft as it was acted in the*



Devil of a story: the 120-page journal documenting possession in 17th century England

Family of Mr Edward Fairfax of Fuystone in the County of Yorke in the year 1621 was copied in an unknown hand in the mid-17th century. Just five of the copies are known to exist and Sotheby's expects the one at auction to fetch as much as £1,500.

In one vision, on November 15 1621, Hellen Fairfax told her father of seeing the Devil, who conjured up a red horse with green saddle and trappings. The Devil asked her to ride with him but she refused and he cut off the

horse's head. "Then He turned into the shape of a Beast with many horns, she said what terrible Horns hast thou?" Fairfax wrote.

Each of the witches was accompanied by a "familiar" — a cat or a bird — which would appear to the girls while in a trance. Fairfax describes one occasion when he and his wife confronted one of the women, Margaret Wait, who angrily denied that she had supernatural powers. But as Fairfax turned away, his wife saw Wait

make the sign of the cross to his back — a curse which they demanded she immediately undo.

Another of the women, Elizabeth Fletcher, was said to have bewitched Fairfax's younger daughter by touching her. She came into the family's kitchen and picked up Elizabeth by the shoulders. After that the child suffered the convulsions which had previously affected only her sister.

In another entry, dated December 7, Fairfax wrote: "Elizabeth was in the morning in a trance in

her bed and saw the bright man who turned into a deformed monster and again in that trance she saw Thorp's wife and her bird to whom she talked."

Another entry, dated June 29, says: "Thorp's wife came in the morning and popped into the chamber where the children were in bed. She had in her hand a dagger, in the other a knife with which she did assault Hellen and did threaten to kill her. The woman followed her from place to place and forced her into her own chamber again."

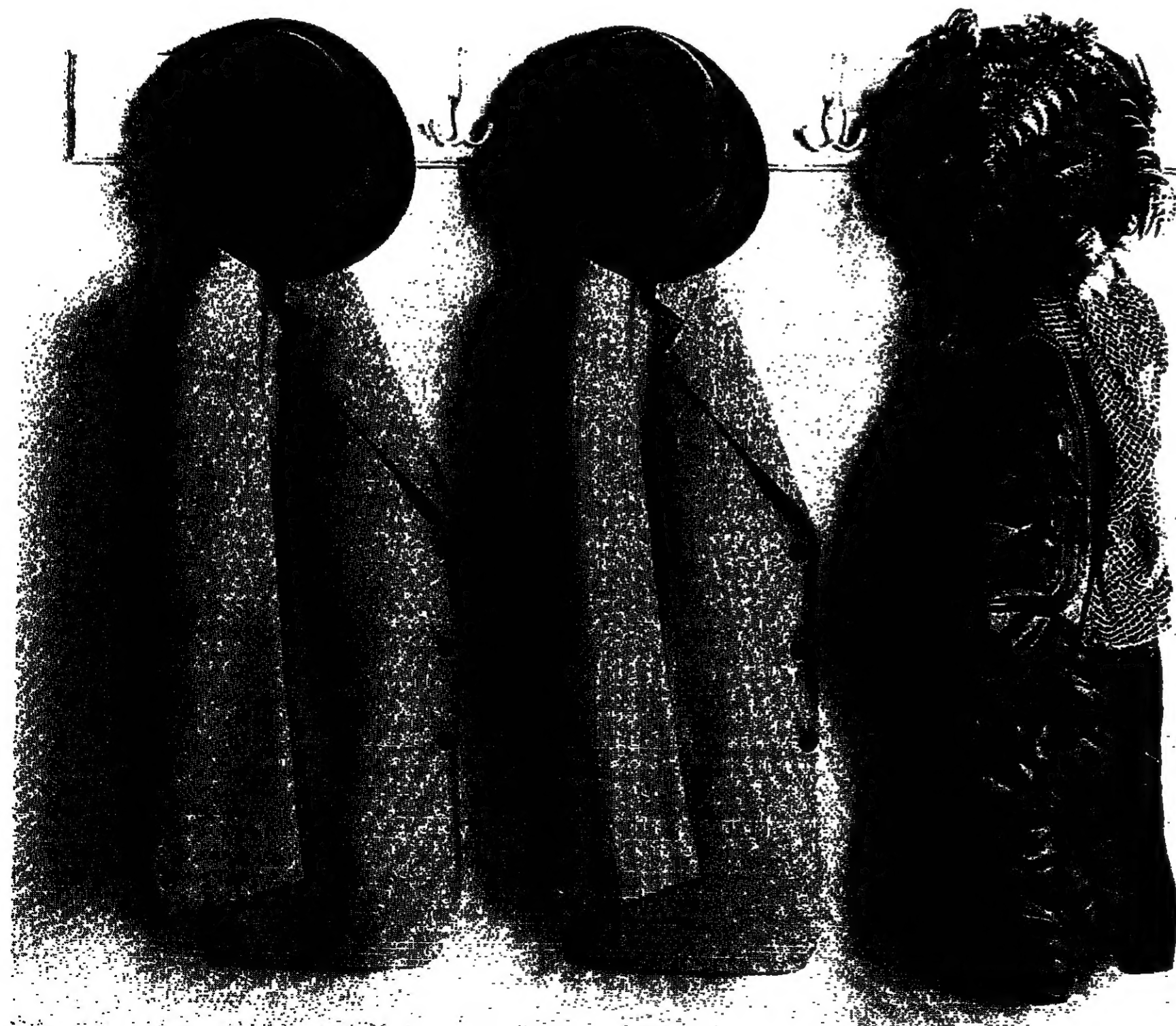
Fairfax wrote: "I set down the actions truly to answer the superstitious ignorant, that is that actors in this be no dancing fairies nor walking ghosts. And to stop the mouths of the incredulous who deny witches for in this appears the work of Satan."

The journal does not say what fate befell the girls, nor what happened to the witches. It has been estimated that between the 15th and 17th centuries, more than 30,000 people, mostly women, were executed for witchcraft in Britain. The last known witch-burning took place in Essex in 1676, when up to 18 people died at the stake. The last hanging for witchcraft in England was in 1716, while in Scotland the last execution was in 1722. The law allowing execution for witchcraft was repealed in 1736.



Problems in the family: Roundhead Sir Thomas Fairfax

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Pupils flee as Radley staff room catches fire

By Stephen Farrell

SEVENTY pupils at Radley College were evacuated on the eve of A-level examinations after fire broke out in the masters' common room early yesterday.

Boys evacuated in fire drills gathered in the grounds of the school, near Abingdon, Oxfordshire, to watch flames shooting from The Mansion, a three-storey building dating from 1726, which houses the common room for Radley's dons, or masters. All three staff sleeping on the top floor escaped after the alarm was raised by the school chaplain, the Rev David Coulton, shortly after 3am. The fire is not being treated as suspicious.

Damage was confined to two first-floor rooms. Fire-fighters rescued valuable paintings and antique furniture after putting into practice lessons learnt in the Windsor Castle fire in 1992. This included using air-blowers to clear smoke from the building.

Richard Morgan, the Warden, said: "We have been extraordinarily fortunate. Nothing of value has been lost and the working of the school has not been affected, but it was quite a night. The boys have been magnificent and the heroes are the fire brigade."

Hospital payout for unwanted abortion

By a Staff Reporter

A WOMAN who was given an abortion during a routine operation accepted damages of about £10,000 yesterday. Amanda Flewitt claimed that doctors failed to wait for the result of a pregnancy test before undertaking the operation. Two days later she discovered she had been pregnant and the foetus had been destroyed.

The termination was carried out at King's Mill Hospital, Sutton in Ashfield, Nottinghamshire. Last year Reginald Dixon, a consultant surgeon at the hospital, was acquitted at a Crown Court trial of carrying out an unlawful abortion without consent during a hysterectomy on a woman aged 36. The woman, and another who had a termination during a hysterectomy, are to sue.

Mrs Flewitt, 35, of Chaddesden, Derby, was admitted to the hospital for a routine womb operation in 1993. Her solicitor, Patrick Booth, said the mother of two had wanted a third child and told doctors before the operation that she might be pregnant. An out-of-court settlement was reached with North Nottinghamshire Health Authority, which admitted liability.

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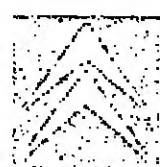


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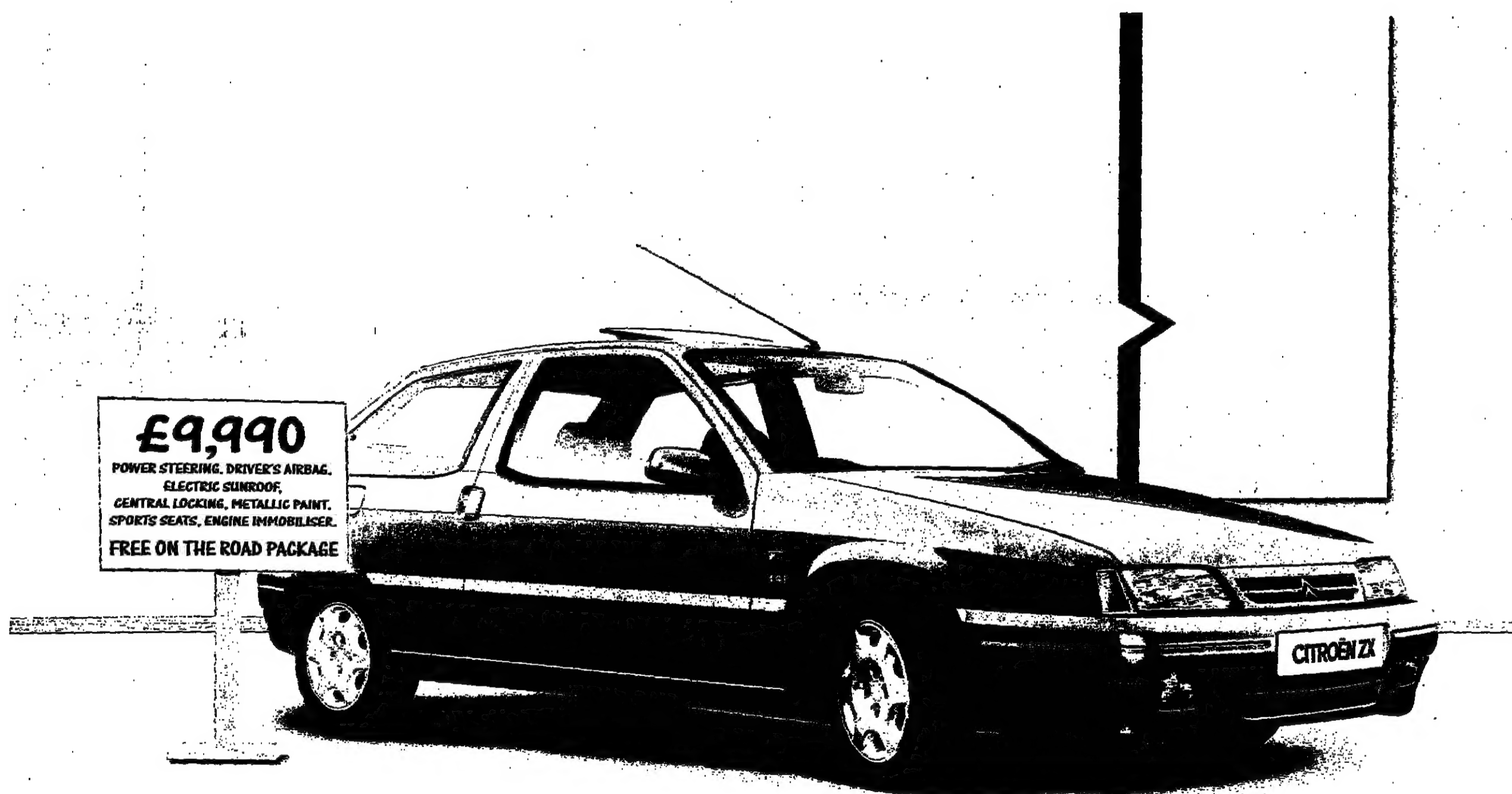
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Shear skill of the Outback hits Irish

By AUDREY MAGEE
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

RURAL communities in Ireland have demanded action to stop the seasonal invasion of Australian and New Zealand sheep shearers who work faster and for less money than their Irish rivals.

They arrive in mid-May and stay for the eight-week shearing season before moving to Scotland and the Continent. When shearing ends in Europe, they return home for the season there. Up to 50 antipodean shearers are thought to be working illegally in Ireland, where there are about four million sheep to be shorn, and a team of two men can shear up to 900 animals a day. The overseas shearers, who have been coming to Ireland for about eight years, undercut local rates by 25p, charging 75p per sheep. Paul McGrath, a Fine Gael backbencher, has called for them to be deport-



Raphael Kelleghan, a lorry driver by trade, complains that antipodean shearers have an unfair advantage

ed. "These people are coming here without work permits, arriving through England on the pretext that they are on a working holiday. But in reality they are working without paying taxes and insurance and stop-

ping other Irish people getting work," he said. Seamus Brannick, president of the National Sheep Shearers Association of Ireland, which has about 50 members, said: "These shearers are going back to Australia and New

Zealand, telling their friends about the work, and more come to Ireland the next year. Young Irish people cannot get any work."

Raphael Kelleghan, a lorry driver from Westmeath, becomes a shearer during the season with his two sons. He says they cannot compete: "If you are shearing for ten months of the year then you will be faster. They would be doing 300 sheep a day each while we would be doing 300 between us."

RUC chief predicts IRA will bow to demands for peace

By NICHOLAS WATT, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT, AND AUDREY MAGEE

THE IRA will eventually accept the overwhelming demand for peace in Ireland and end its campaign of terrorism, according to Sir Hugh Annesley, Chief Constable of the RUC. However, he tempered his prediction with a warning that the terrorists might first embark on a "short, sharp campaign of violence" in Northern Ireland.

Speaking in Belfast at the launch of the RUC's annual report for 1995, Sir Hugh said that loyalists would retaliate without warning if the IRA resumed its campaign in Northern Ireland. There was also a possibility of further bombs on the mainland.



Sir Hugh: warned of loyalist retaliation

IRA leaders were engaged in an intense debate about whether to fight or pursue politics, which made it extremely difficult to predict their short-term plans, Sir Hugh said. "I simply do not know what they will do tomorrow. They might call a

linked. I believe Messrs Adams and McGuinness are very, very influential people and they have a major say in the conduct overall of the republican thrust."

Sir Hugh's comments came hours after the IRA admitted the bombing in Manchester on Saturday. In a statement issued to RTE, the Irish national broadcasting company, the IRA hinted that it was considering a renewed ceasefire when it said it was prepared to "enhance the democratic peace process".

Mr Adams expanded on the IRA statement yesterday, saying that he had been in regular contact with the IRA to try to rebuild the peace process. In an article in the *Irish Times* he addressed the two questions that John Bruton, the Taoiseach, posed to Sinn Féin earlier in the week. Mr Bruton asked whether Sinn Féin had asked the IRA to restore its ceasefire and whether it supported the armed struggle.

Mr Adams refused to disclose what had been discussed during his meetings with the IRA. On the second question he said that "Sinn Féin does not advocate armed struggle".

Mr Bruton made clear yesterday that Mr Adams's article had failed to answer his questions. He also said the IRA's statement admitting the bombing was a matter of "grave concern". He said it was time for Sinn Féin to separate itself publicly from the paramilitaries.

The Taoiseach later left for the EU meeting in Florence, where he will discuss the Northern Ireland situation with John Major. He said the Manchester bombing and the recent murder by the IRA of an Irish policeman was "repellent to the people of Ireland".

Conor Cruise O'Brien, p22

End of ceasefire stalls Ulster tourist boom

By EMMA WILKINS

TOURISM in Northern Ireland is suffering as a result of the IRA's renewed bombing campaign, a Commons committee was told yesterday. During the ceasefire last year, visitor numbers rose 20 per cent and revenue was up 17 per cent, but this year there has been a 3 per cent drop in booking inquiries at hotels.

Ian Henderson, chief executive of the Northern Ireland Tourist Board, told the National Heritage Committee on tourism: "We are concerned, but we are still ahead of 1994

levels. In the 1970s and 1980s, we were a pariah destination. Until last year, a lot of tour operators would exclude Belfast. The perception has been that Belfast is a place of bombs and soldiers on the streets. The reality is that investment has been dramatic for restaurants, shopping facilities, and we have a concert centre opening this year."

Co-operation with the Republic meant that Americans searching for their roots in the south were twice as likely to visit the north.

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Only hope for Chalky is life in solitary

A RARE white crow has been rescued from certain death as an outcast from its own species, but the bird's future is in doubt (Paul Wilkinson writes).

The young albino, nicknamed Chalky, is now in the safety of a bird sanctuary after being mobbed by ordinary black crows, but under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 wild birds can be kept captive only if they are injured or unwell. They should be released as soon as they are fit.

Tony Scott, who runs Chalky's temporary home at the Northumbria Bird of Prey Centre in Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne, is concerned that the crow will be attacked as soon as it takes to the air.

"He is an outcast and will never belong. The crows would certainly have killed him if he hadn't been rescued. It is natural for birds



Tony Scott with the albino crow he fears would soon be killed if released

to turn against something that looks so odd.

"His best chance is to stay with us at the centre. Strictly speaking he should be freed once he is well enough to fly independently. But I hope the law is applied sensibly. It looks as though humans might be his only friends."

The eight-week-old bird was rescued by Alan Beech, a nature warden at the

Riverside Country Park at Newburn, Newcastle, who saw dozens of black crows drive it from the sky. They had forced it to ground level and were pecking its back and head when Mr Beech drove them off.

Northumbria police said it was unlikely Mr Scott would be prosecuted for not releasing Chalky. "It would not be in the public interest

to proceed against a man who has great experience in the field and is only acting in the bird's welfare."

Professor John Cram, a zoologist at Newcastle University, said: "Albino animals and birds are created by a mutation of a gene. Albinos happen in all sorts of species. I have even known of an albino crocodile in northern Australia."

Patients 'are misled over healthcare rationing'

By JEREMY LAURANCE

THE NHS cannot afford to provide all the treatments available but the Government refuses to accept that rationing is inevitable, senior doctors said yesterday.

In a series of articles in the *British Medical Journal* yesterday, a group of medical organisations accused the Government and Opposition politicians of misleading the public by claiming that nobody would be denied beneficial treatments and called for a national debate on rationing.

Dr Richard Smith, Editor of the *BMJ*, said that there were increasing examples of treatments that had been proved effective but which were hugely expensive. The new cholesterol-lowering drugs have been proved effective in reducing deaths from heart disease, but could cost as much as £361,000 for each year of life saved.

At a separate conference, Stephen Thornton, the health manager who refused to fund the £70,000 experimental can-



The father of Jaymee Bowen, the girl who died after a legal battle for leukaemia treatment, is to remarry four weeks after her funeral. David Bowen, 32, will marry Susan Manning in Antigua on Tuesday. They have a daughter aged two.



cer treatment for the late Jaymee Bowen — Child B — also said yesterday that ministers must be open about healthcare rationing.

Dr Smith, who was flanked by representatives of the Royal College of Physicians and the King's Fund, an independent health policy think-tank, said rationing had always occurred in the NHS and always would. More money for the NHS and a reduction in ineffective treatments — the remedies favoured by politicians — would never be enough to bridge the gap, he said.

Robert Maxwell, chief executive of the King's Fund,

which has set up a group to consider how rationing could be achieved, said the decisions made by health authorities and doctors needed to be more transparent. However, the group had failed to agree on how treatments should be chosen or who should take part in the process. "It is a difficult problem but the secretive way it has been done in the past is not good enough," the group said.

Dr David Ebbs, a GP in Didcot, Oxfordshire, said that under the rationing policy drawn up by his practice the age and number of dependants of patients is taken into account. The patient's respon-

sibility for causing his condition is also a factor.

The fundholding practice serves 16,000 patients and has a budget of £2.5 million. "We are trying to grasp the issue as honestly as we can," he said.

Mr Thornton, chief executive of the Cambridge and Huntingdon Health Commission, said difficult decisions on how the NHS's limited resources should be spent had to be made at a national level.

Speaking at the annual conference of the National Association of Health Authorities and Trusts, Mr Thornton said rationing was inevitable in a world where demand had outgrown the system's ability to deliver, but it would win acceptance only if it was guided by clear values; was clinically sound and credible; was based on demonstrable evidence; and was well communicated.

Mr Thornton said he believed an investigation would reveal a number of cases of "unsubstantiated moral judgments masked by a thin veneer of clinical evidence".

Safer to spread your bets in the hay fever stakes



MEDICAL BRIEFING

THE rain came just in time to allow one of my patients to enjoy the last two days at Asot without resorting to an armory of treatment to keep her hay fever at bay. Every year she suffers the misery of weeping eyes and a runny nose which so erodes her self-confidence that it cannot be salvaged by her hats and dresses, however splendid they are.

The latest edition of *Martindale's Pharmacopoeia*, the essential guide to all drug therapy, which is published this week, reminds doctors that although hay fever is usually controllable there is no single preparation that would always be completely effective in the alleviation of all its symptoms. The difficulty in treating severe hay fever is that the symptoms are induced by different inflammatory processes and hence need to be treated with more than one preparation.

The first rule in the control of hay fever is to avoid the source of the allergen. This is often impossible: few patients are prepared to spend their summers living the life of a hermit.

Everybody can, however, take reasonable precautions. If, for instance, they know they have an allergy to grass and weed pollen it is tempting fate to travel through the countryside in an open car during the summer on a hot windy day. Hay fever is at its worst when the weather is warm and there is a light breeze to disperse the pollen.

The allergens stimulate the body's immune system to produce antibodies and also release histamines. The histamines are responsible for the blocked or runny nose, the congested sinuses, the itchy

throat, the sneezing and sniffling. Directly, or indirectly, they bring on headaches, prevent concentration, make the eyes run and in general make the sufferer feel so bad that it affects performance whether in the office, in the examination room, or socially.

The treatment of hay fever has been immeasurably improved by the introduction of long-acting antihistamines that can be taken once a day and which don't cross the blood/brain barrier. The newer antihistamines, because they don't affect the brain, produce either little or no sleepiness and irritability and could even be taken by patients who enjoy a drink.

All doctors have their favourite remedies. I tend to prescribe Claritin or Triludan, even though the latter mustn't be taken at the same time as some antibiotics and antifungals.

Local remedies are used to supplement the action of the tablets. In some cases nasal inhalers — a couple of sniffs in each nostril either once or twice a day, depending on the preparation — are all that is necessary and in others they supplement the daily antihistamine.

Likewise, allergic conjunctivitis can be treated with eye drops as well as with antihistamine tablets. The eye-drops contain either non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs such as Opicrom or antihistamine drops such as Otrivine-Antistin.

Steroid eye-drops should be used only with great care as continued use can cause serious side-effects.

DR THOMAS STUTTFORD

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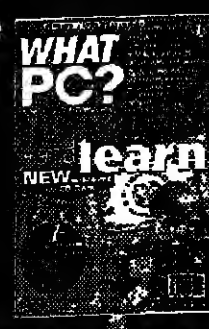
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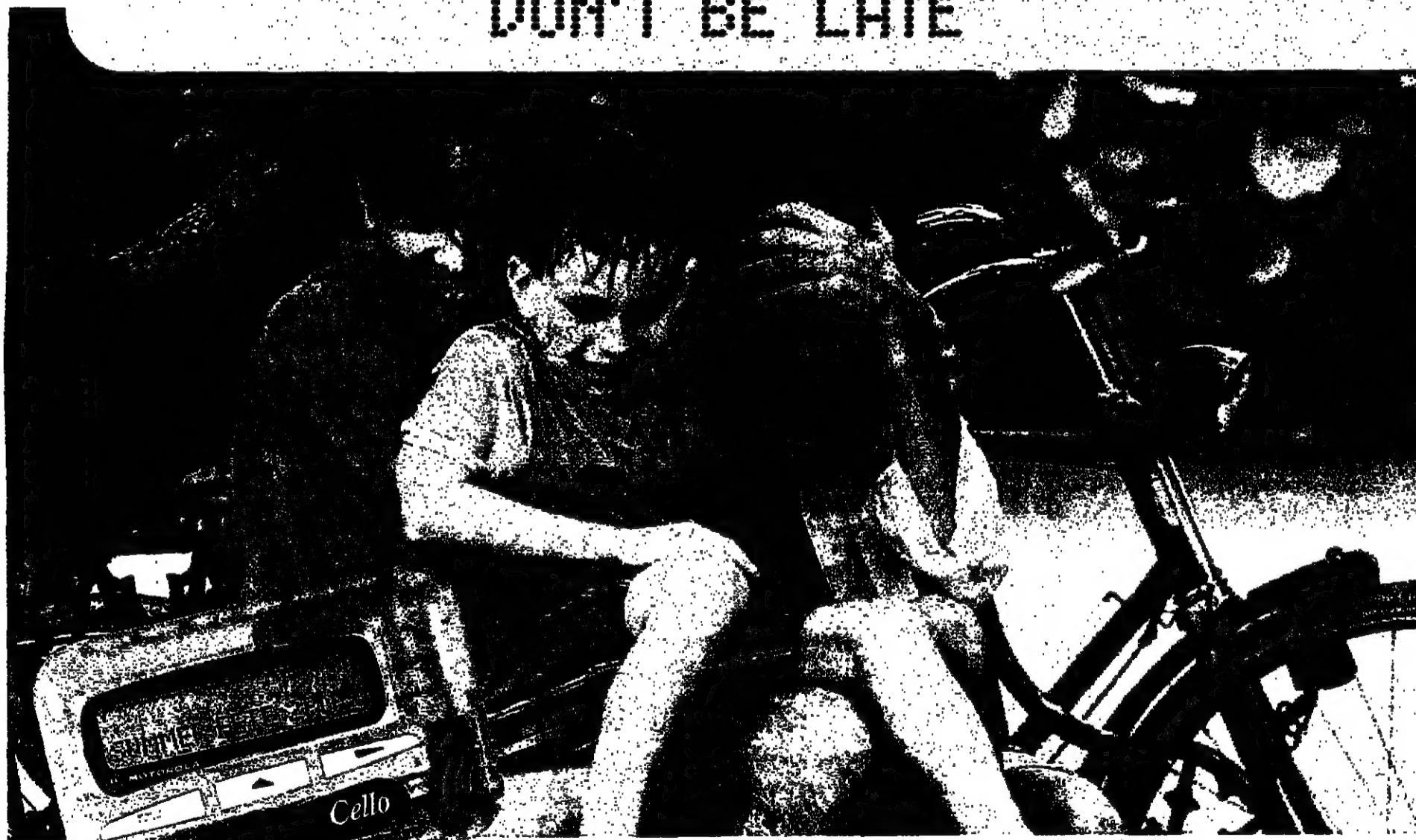
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NFU disputes government claims that only 'clapped-out milkers' will be involved in new scheme

Farmers demand full payment for extra culled cows

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

FARMERS demanded full compensation yesterday for any extra cull of cattle undertaken by the Government as part of a deal to lift the European Union's export ban on British beef.

Contrary to claims by Downing Street that only "clapped-out" old milkers would be affected by the cull, they said thousands of high-value dairy cows in the prime of life would be destroyed.

The Ministry of Agriculture conceded yesterday that potentially up to 147,000 animals could be affected by the cull, which is designed to remove animals identified as being at particular risk of developing "mad cow" disease.

Douglas Hogg, the minister, told the Commons yesterday that farmers would be given "significantly higher" compensation than the £480 they receive for each cow under the existing slaughter scheme for animals over 30 months old. The cost of the eradication programme so far has been £190 million and Mr Hogg predicted that figure would rise to £1.5 billion over the next three years.

Tony Tapper, the Nottinghamshire secretary of the National Farmers' Union (NFU), calculates that under the new cull he could be facing the loss of 80 of the 250 dairy cows he keeps on his 2,000-acre Kings-ton Farm near Newark. He estimates each animal could cost up to £3,000 to replace—a total bill of £240,000.

"There will be many others worse affected than me," he said. "It will be devastating if we do not get proper compensation for our animals, many of which are in the prime of life with several years of milking still left in them."

Since 1988, Mr Tapper has lost 40 cows to BSE. He has received the standard compensation rate for these animals of about £630 each. That has covered about two thirds of the cost of replacement.

As a dairy farmer, he has not suffered too much from the ban on selling cattle older than 30 months for food. He can keep his dairy cows for milk production until they would be slaughtered anyway. Under the new cull, however, Mr Tapper would be forced to kill much younger cows. "I reckon

that 45 of the 80 cows I would lose would be between only four and five years old," he said. "These have at least four more years of milk and calf production in them. Each cow produces about £1,850 worth of milk a year."

"It is nonsense for Hestline to say only a handful of cows would be affected and that most would be old and close to slaughter anyway."

The idea behind the cull is to trace and destroy any cattle that were born at the same time and on the same farms as the 162,000 animals, nearly all from dairy herds, that have died of BSE. Farmers like Mr Tapper, who have had a significant number of BSE cases spread over several years, will thus be particularly badly hit by the proposed cull.

The vast majority of the cattle killed under the new cull would be perfectly healthy. Ministry officials estimated earlier this month that only about 1,450 out of 80,000 at-risk animals culled would have gone on to develop BSE.

Leading article, page 23
Letters, page 23



Tony Tapper with some of his dairy cows at Newark, Nottinghamshire. He says that under the new cull he could lose 80 of his 250-strong herd, at a cost of £250,000

HOW OTHER COUNTRIES COMPENSATE FARMERS FOR BSE

Country	Cases	Action taken	Compensation
BRITAIN	163,000	Slaughter and burn infected animals	£628 per animal if BSE confirmed after death. Average market value (currently £785) if BSE not confirmed. More than £140m paid out so far
SWITZERLAND	220	Slaughter and burn infected animals. Calves of infected animals kept under surveillance and cannot be exported.	Payment per animal fixed by local veterinary authority. Averages between £500 and £700, covering between 70% and 90% of market value
IRELAND	128	Slaughter and burn whole herd in which BSE occurs. 16,600 animals destroyed to date	Market value of whole herd. Average payment per animal £700
PORTUGAL	46	Whole herd slaughtered and destroyed. About 1,760 animals culled to date	Average payment per animal slaughtered about £700 based on market value
FRANCE	30	Slaughter and burn whole herd. 1,500 animals destroyed and burnt	Negotiated with each farmer. Average payment about £700 per animal
GERMANY	4	Since April, slaughter of whole herd in which BSE occurs. Only one herd of 104 animals destroyed to date	Based on market value. About £700 per animal
DENMARK	1	Whole herd of 25 animals destroyed and burnt	Based on market value. About £850 per animal

BSE is separately slaughtering and destroying all cattle more than 30 months old. Average compensation is £680 for dairy cows and £380 for beef cattle. Over a year about a million animals will be destroyed. Cost put at £235m.

Deaths from dementia to be investigated for CJD variant

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

SCIENTISTS are to increase their monitoring of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease amid fears that there may be hidden cases that have been misdiagnosed.

The National CJD Surveillance Unit in Edinburgh is to run intensive searches for the disease in one or two regions by increasing the number of post-mortem examinations performed on people who die from dementia or similar conditions.

Experts believe that among the elderly there could be cases of the new variant of CJD — which is linked to BSE in cows — that have been mistaken for Alzheimer's disease or other dementing illnesses. They want similar checks to be made of very young children who have died of neurological illnesses.

Dr Robert Will, director of the unit, said: "It is possible that we are missing cases. We have to think of doing intensive surveillance across the age range in one or two regions. The findings may be negative but it is important to exclude the possibility."

Dr Will said that classical CJD — also known as sporadic CJD which is not linked to BSE — had distinct clinical features and was very unlikely to be confused with dementia or similar conditions. However, the new variant of CJD has less specific symptoms, often beginning with depression in the early stages rather than the movement disorder typical of the classical disease, and is harder to diagnose.

"We are not confident at all in diagnosing the new variant cases because the clinical features are not specific," he said. "The diagnosis essentially depends on the neuropathology [revealed by dissection of the brain after death]. We are trying to get a high post-mortem rate in one or more regions to check the incidence of the new variant. It is possible very young kids and the elderly over 75 could be missed."

Up to the end of last month 11 cases of new-variant CJD had been confirmed in Britain and there are at least five suspected cases.

All the victims have been unusually young, displayed distinctive symptoms and suffered effects to the brain different to those seen in normal CJD. Dr Will said only one more confirmed case of new-variant CJD had come to light in Britain since news of the original ten was made public in March. He would

not be drawn on the number of suspected cases still being investigated.

Scientists from nine European countries convened in London yesterday for a two-day meeting to discuss the latest developments in research into BSE and its links with CJD in humans.

Professor Peter Smith, head of the department of epidemiology at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, said it was too early to predict how widespread the disease would become in Britain. "It is early days but the size of any epidemic will be informed by the number of cases we see over the next year. If the number is small we will have some confidence that the size of the epidemic will be small."

"I personally find it unlikely that we have seen all the cases we are going to see. I would not be surprised if we saw tens of cases over the next year but if it becomes larger than that, especially if there are surges in the numbers, then one would be worried."

"Experience with other diseases of this kind, such as kuru, suggests there is a long incubation of five to ten years. Cases of the disease could continue to occur over a long period of time." Kuru occurred among natives of Papua New Guinea who ate the brains of their ancestors in a cannibalistic ritual.

Asked what the view among experts was on how safe it was to eat British beef, he said: "Opinions do vary. Probably the consensus view is that if it was hazardous to eat beef products it [the risk] is now lower than before the measures [banning specific parts of beef and cows older than 30 months from the food chain] were introduced."



Will: feared cases were being missed

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Smithfield meat porters bow to market forces

BY IAN MURRAY

A £2 MILLION "redundancy" package yesterday brought down one of the last bastions of trade union restrictive practices — Smithfield meat market in London. One hundred and sixty two porters, 69 of them pensioners and many over 70 years old, had been holding out against the introduction of equipment to carry carcasses, as required by the European Union.

The porters, self-employed and consequently not entitled to redundancy, are all members of the Transport and General Workers Union. They are allowed to work in the market under a licence granted by the Corporation of London. Only those nominated by the union are given a licence and they guard their licence-shop closely. The Queen Mother is an honorary member.

"The market is an area the trade union legislation of Margaret Thatcher never dared to enter," according to Peter Martinelli, a meat trader and member of the City Council. "This deal is a golden opportunity to end all that and

MEN WHO CARRY THE CARCASSES

The men who transport the meat through Smithfield (numbers of those aged over 65 in brackets):

- 17 (7) pullers-back pull goods to the tailboards of incoming delivery vehicles
- 43 (18) pitchers carry goods from the tailboards and "pitch" them into the market
- 2 (1) shunters move the lorries
- 6 cartminders assist with parking
- 85 (42) bummares are licensed porters who ply for hire to carry goods purchased out of the market to the buyers' vehicles
- 9 (1) rank porters are licensed to remove goods to carriers who deliver to the buyers.

start a new age for Smithfield," he said.

The porters, who are divided into specialist groups of pullers-back, pitchers, shunters, cartminders and bummares, have been handling meat in the same way as their Victorian forefathers. The pullers-back drag the carcasses to the tailboards of the incoming lorries. The pitchers carry goods from the tailboards and pitch them into the market. The shunters move the lorries and the bummares have the exclusive right to

carry the meat from the market butcher to the buyer's vehicle. They are paid a penny for each pound of meat they shift and, with around 2,500 tonnes of meat going through each week, can earn up to £50,000 a year.

EU regulations came into force three years ago requiring all meat to be handled mechanically and forbidding porters from tossing carcasses over their shoulders or onto trolleys. The Corporation, which owns the markets and has a statutory duty to provide

them, launched a £60 million refurbishment of the Grade II listed Victorian halls, equipping them with overhead rails to transport carcasses. Although work on the first hall was completed last year, it is still not in use because of the difficulty in making the porters accept that they are redundant.

The Corporation recruited Dennis Boyd, who had been chief conciliation officer at ACAS for 12 years, to help. He had 59 meetings with the porters and the Smithfield Market Traders Association over nearly two years and said that the negotiations proved the most complicated in which he had been involved. As recently as last month he had made little progress.

In the end he advised that the only way out was for the Corporation to pay redundancy money, even though the porters were not entitled to it. Even those over retirement age were to be offered £8,000 each. Others would receive up to £20,000. About 30 bummares, who will run the overhead system, will keep their jobs. The traders, anxious to move into the refurb



One man's meat: Brussels has ruled that the traditional way of moving meat about at Smithfield is unhygienic

bished hall, agreed to pay 40 per cent of the bill. A final meeting with the pitchers at 4am yesterday clinched the deal.

"This is a necessary step for the Corporation to win back control of its own market," Nicholas Anstee, the market committee chairman, told the

Corporation's Court of Common Council at its meeting yesterday. "Frankly, it is the best that can be achieved by negotiation and if we fail to accept it this will lead to a strike and to possible closure."

Richard Scriven, chairman of the finance committee, which must find the money,

was outraged. "We are being blackmailed and in my opinion this is not a suitable use of public funds," he said. But having been warned again that the market was in jeopardy if the deal was refused, he voted with the rest of the court to accept it.

Tom O'Driscoll, the TGWU

markets officer, said: "This is the end of an era and a lot of these people will not know what to do now because all they have ever done is work."

"They are tough men who have worked hard in appalling conditions for decades. They deserve every penny they are being offered."

British broccoli sprouts on the supermarket shelf

WEEKEND SHOPPING

THE British broccoli season started this week. Broccoli is one of the healthiest vegetables, rich in the anti-oxidant vitamins A, C and E, and a good source of vitamin B2 and calcium, says Catherine Powell, lecturer in nutrition and food marketing at Cranfield University.

It can be used in soups, salads, pasta dishes, stir-fries or pies, and is delicious topped with a cheese sauce. Store it in a cool place and, if possible, eat within two days of purchase. Supplies in the shops now are priced from 35p to 90p a pound. Promotions include: Asda: boneless chicken breasts £4.99 for 680g, beef topside/silverside with added fat £5.17 kg, peaches 99p a punnet, red seedless grapes 99p lb.

Budgets: Welsh leg of lamb whole/half £5.99 kg, smoked salmon parcels £1.49 for 100g, new potatoes 89p for 2kg. Co-op: fresh minced lamb £1.99 for 400g, pork chops £3.99 kg, roast whole chicken £3.99 for 900g, prawn cocktail £1.29 for 200g, Somerset brie 99p for 150g, English apple juice £1.19 ltr.

Harrods: royal fillet of oak smoked Scottish salmon £4.90 for 100g, iceberg lettuce 49p each, Indian sweetmeats and halwa £2.49 for 100g.

Iceland: southern fried

chicken bucket £4.49 for 1145g, Bird's Eye chicken burgers £1.99 for eight, Young's prawns £3.99 for 400g, Walls toffee choc ice 99p for ten.

Marks & Spencer: oak smoked salmon £2.99 for 125g, whole roast chickens 50p off, strawberry conserve 99p for 340g, English strawberries £1.99 for 460g.

Morrisons: large salmon £3.94 kg, salmon steaks £4.60 kg, herrings £2.18 kg, tuna steaks £9.59 kg, Alive fruit yogurt 39p for 125g.

Sainsbury's: skinless chicken breast fillets £4.39 for 567g, smoked prime gammon steak £1.45 for 227g, baking potatoes £1.36 for 2.25kg, flat mushrooms £1.19 lb, medium avocados 29p each.

Sainsbury's: turkey steaks £4.19 for 680g, beef rib roast £4.18 kg, garlic tomato and oregano lamb chump chops £2.69 for 454g, peaches 22p each, British strawberries £1.49 for 250g.

Somerfield: whole chickens 75p lb, chicken garlic Kiev £1.59 for two, whole/half lamb shoulder £3.89 kg, American beef burgers 89p for 2 x 4oz, medium avocados 24p each, mini cucumbers 39p each, onions 49p kg, oranges £1.09.

Teasco: whole extra large chicken £4.99 for 2.1kg, skinless chicken breast fillets £6.95 for 820g, turkey steaks £5.95 kg, beef topside £4.99 kg, boneless leg of pork £3.69 kg, new potatoes 19p lb, white seedless grapes £1.99 lb, cherries £1.74 lb.

Waitrose: Aberdeen Angus beefburgers 69p for 170g, Mediterranean sausages £2.58 for 12, salmon steaks £2.49 for 270g, yellow courgettes 99p each, large sweet pineapples £1.99 each, apricots £1.49 lb.

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Labour rules out NHS upheaval driven by dogma

By Nigel Hawkes and Jill Sherman

TONY BLAIR promised stability for the health service yesterday, saying that a Labour government would not tear up Tory reforms overnight.

If Labour won the general election there would be no unnecessary reorganisation in the NHS. He said also that he had no intention of pumping in more money until it had been established whether the present budget was being well spent.

"I believe in practical reform not upheaval based on dogma. The NHS needs stability as well as modernisation and change," he told the National Association of Health Authorities and Trusts in Harrogate.

In a speech that was high in reassurance and low on ideas, the Labour leader set out to show that not only was the NHS safe in his hands, but so were most of the changes made by the Tories. The tone was in marked contrast to previous statements from Shadow Health Secretaries who have lambasted the reforms.

The distinction between

purchasers and providers would remain, he said, and although he criticised the increase in management costs this was softened by the assertion that the NHS needed managing and already had "many dedicated and good managers".

His only new announcement was to promise that Labour would set up a task force to try to end the practice of patients having to spend hours on trolleys in hospital emergency departments.

He repeated that Labour would not make political appointments to trust and health authority boards. It would follow the Nolan Committee's recommendation that appointments should be made on merit alone.

His message was warmly received by an audience that had dreaded the prospect of yet another reorganisation of the NHS imposed by new political masters.

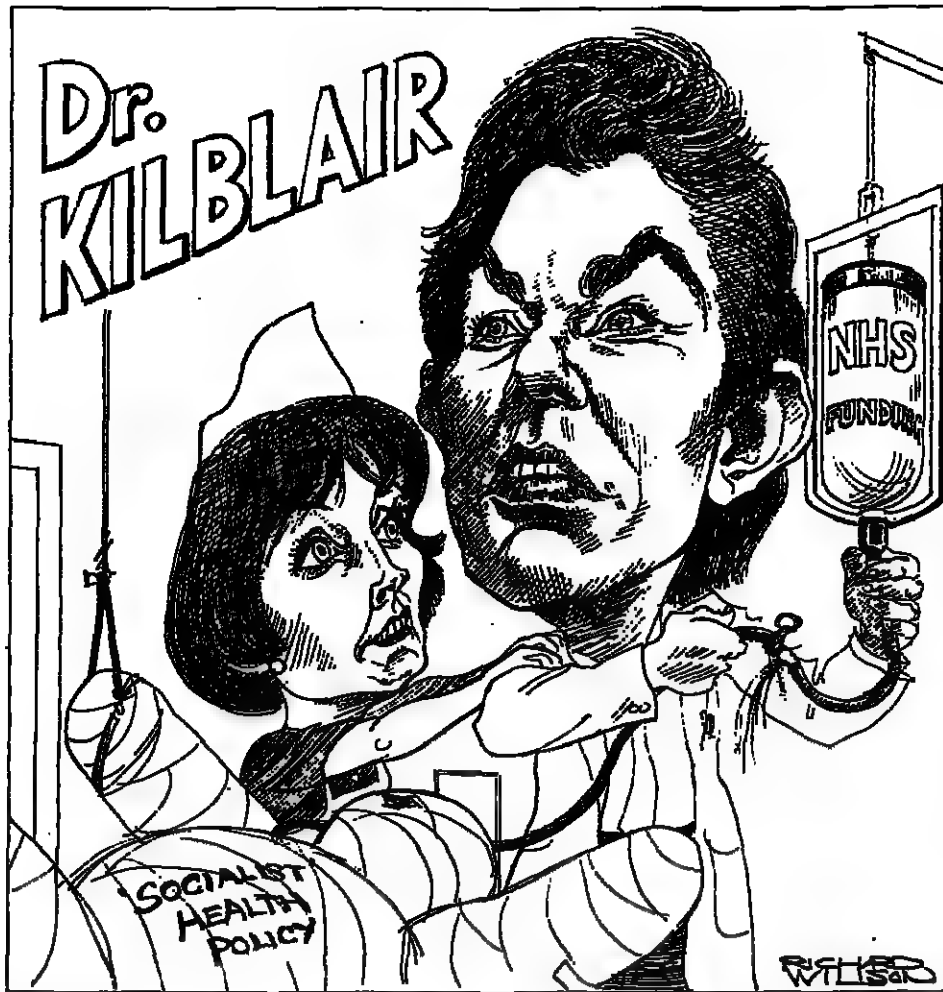
Mr Blair made clear that Labour would not repeat the pledge made at the last general election to restore underfunding in the NHS. The first task would be to find out

whether money was being well spent and whether treatments were effective. "Only after these two stages have been gone through would a Labour government look at whether there was still a funding gap that needed to be bridged."

Mr Blair and Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, are understood to have resisted demands by Harriet Harman, the Shadow Health Secretary, for promises of extra funding.

The uncertainty over what exactly Labour intends to do about fundholding GPs remains. Mr Blair promised to replace GP fundholding with "a flexible GP commissioning model", which could mean many things. The aim, he said, would be to give all GPs an equal say in shaping hospital services for their patients.

Fundholding GPs protested that Labour's criticisms were out of date. "Fundholding raises standards for all, not just the patients of fundholders," Dr John Oldham, a GP in Glossop, Derbyshire, said. "The people who are advising Blair have mistaken



fundholding for an ideology, while it is really only a methodology."

Mr Blair said that a task force would be set up to report urgently on long waiting times in emergency departments. He said: "I do not see why people should be kept waiting on trolleys for hours in a modern NHS." He suggested

that the use of admissions wards, allowing the sickest patients to go straight into a bed, would help. In addition, some senior managerial staff should have the role of organising beds efficiently, such as already happened in some hospitals.

Mr Blair disclosed that he had recently been visiting

hospitals to see things at first hand. The experience had reinforced his fears that the NHS was being turned into a "safety-net" service for those who could not afford private medicine. "If things continue as at present, I genuinely believe that the NHS would cease to exist as we know it," he said.

Redwood's hat offers less than a full rabbit

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

John Redwood has suddenly become a Budget magician. In *The Times* yesterday, he revealed that current public spending plans contain a lot of padding. He claimed that the projected increase in spending of £11.2 billion in 1997-98 above this year's expected level could be pared back to a rise of just £5.2 billion — allowing "the money we need for teachers, policemen, nurses and soldiers" with £6 billion "to play with" for tax cuts. But this is largely "blue smoke and mirrors", resting on over-optimistic assumptions.

This is an expansion of the case he made during last year's Tory leadership contest when he urged a £5 billion cut in public spending. Mr Redwood believes he was vindicated when existing plans were reduced by £3.2 billion in last November's Budget, and argues that even bigger savings can now be achieved.

Mr Redwood has two points in his favour — first, that it is always possible to improve efficiency and squeeze running costs, and, second, that in recent years inflation has been over-estimated, thus providing extra leeway. But there is no guarantee that inflation will continue to underperform, and there are anyway doubts about the plausibility of existing plans.

The Treasury committee's report on *The 1995 Budget* noted that the reductions in plans largely reflected cuts in the reserve for unforeseen items and in capital spending (offset by the expanded Private Finance Initiative). "These are apparently painless cuts, but ones which may prove harder to make than to announce". Otherwise, increases and decreases in departmental plans largely cancelled out.

The last Budget proposed a slightly smaller rise in spending between this year and 1997-98 than Mr Redwood mentions — of 3.3 against 3.6 per cent — though this does not alter the substance of the argument. He believes that £2.3 billion can be saved through providing "an inflation only increase of 2.2 per cent". But this is less than the probable inflation rate given the upward pressures from an expanding econ-

omy. Such a reduction would mean a further unprecedented squeeze on public sector pay and cutbacks in priority services.

Mr Redwood believes the reserve could be halved from £5 to £2.5 billion. But the Treasury committee's advisers have given warning that the reserve for 1997-98 has already been reduced to abnormally low levels, even before taking account of sizeable continuing BSE costs and further expected increases in social security spending. The increased take-up of benefits has offset the impact of lower unemployment, casting doubt on whether forecast payments can be reduced by £400 million, as he proposes.

Mr Redwood also suggests that an extra £500 million can be found from increased sales of assets and £300 million from reducing grants to Housing Associations. He is right that some reduction in spending can be found from these items, from efficiency savings and the containment of inflation, but nothing like on the scale he says.

The real fallacy is his claim that spending plans can be trimmed "with no damage to crucial services". Reductions in plans of the scale he proposes are bound to have a big impact on the health, education and law and order programmes on which Mr Redwood believes more money should be spent. There are no painless options. The only way to contain spending, let alone to cut totals in real terms, is by looking directly at functions and financing, as Norman Lamont and Lord Sidselsky have urged.

It is always possible to squeeze a little, but the only way to produce £6 billion is by cutting back existing state entitlements and requiring people to pay more themselves for services, as with pensions and higher education. That takes time to work through. There are no quick budgetary, or election, fixes.

PETER RIDDELL

Short planning to increase road tax on inefficient cars

By Jonathan Prynn
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR outlined plans to protect the environment from traffic yesterday including city centre road tolls and higher taxes on some cars and lorries.

Clare Short, the Shadow Transport Secretary, said that Britain faced "very serious health, economic and quality of life damage" unless car use was curbed. She added: "We have to learn to use the car differently."

Ms Short presented the party's transport policy paper, *Consensus for Change*, which contains the proposed overhaul of the car and lorry tax system. The document says:

"Within the revenue raised we will introduce a graded system, designed to ensure that more efficient, less polluting cars will pay less and less efficient ones will pay more."

The party also wants to review company car taxation, which has been blamed for encouraging unnecessary car journeys by giving big reductions for executives who drive more than 18,000 miles a year on business.

According to the document, a Labour government would also pass legislation giving local councils the powers to raise revenues for transport improvements through road tolls. These could include charges on busy roads into

city centres or on roads to out-of-town shopping centres.

The money raised from tolls could be devoted to improving public transport but councils would not be obliged to use it for that purpose. Further detail on the rates of higher vehicle excise duty, and the relevant fuel consumption levels, will be spelt out after a period of consultation.

Ms Short said that the policies were not aimed at punishing car drivers, but the proposals immediately raised new fears that drivers and haulage companies will be saddled with higher taxes under Labour.

Edmund King, head of campaigns at the RAC, said:



Short says car use must be curbed

"Introducing bureaucratic new grades of vehicle excise duty to penalise owners of fuel-inefficient cars will not reduce the number of such cars or help the environment. Encouraging regular servicing to ensure fuel efficiency and shifting tax to fuel would be a more logical policy."

Shephard considers vouchers short-cut

By John O'Leary, Education Editor

MINISTERS may halve the time spent evaluating this year's nursery voucher trials to ensure that the national scheme is launched before a general election.

A leaked memorandum from Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, suggests this as a way round a Lords' amendment to the vouchers Bill that threatens to wreck the scheme. Peers voted on Monday to ensure that four pilot projects are examined in detail before vouchers can be offered nationally. This is expected to delay the national scheme until at least September 1997.

The memorandum, leaked to David Blunkett, the Shadow Education Secretary, implies that the Government fears being unable to reverse the vote in the Commons. Instead, Mrs Shephard argues for an "amendment to the amendment" passed by peers when the voucher Bill goes for its next stages in the Lords early next month. This would allow her to produce an evaluation report in October, after the schemes have been running for six months, giving ministers time to make the vouchers available nationwide by next April, as planned.

Mr Blunkett criticised the plan, which he said would prevent a full assessment of the pilot schemes.

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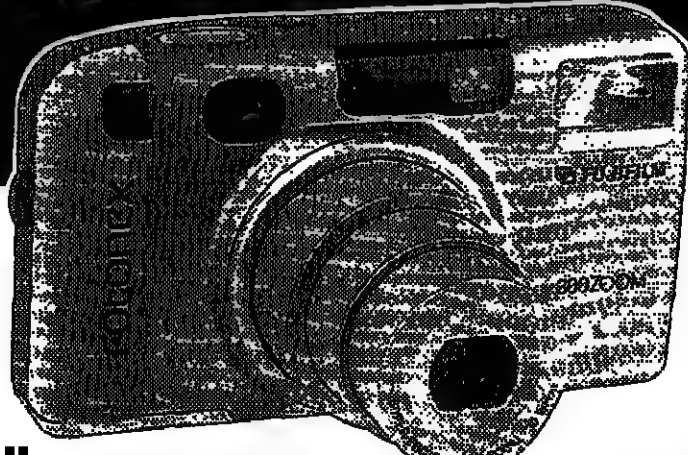
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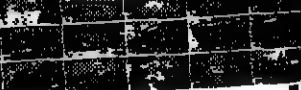
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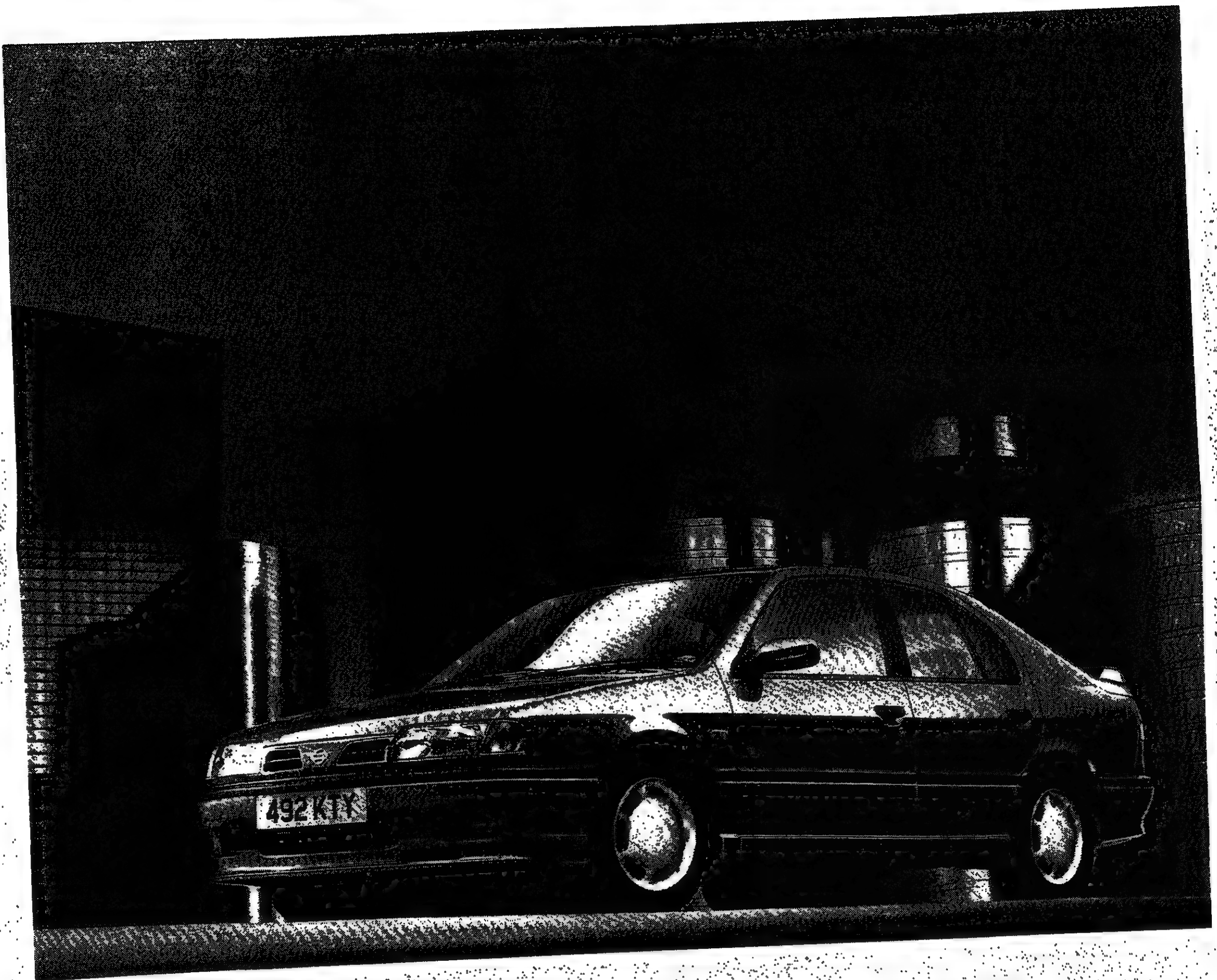
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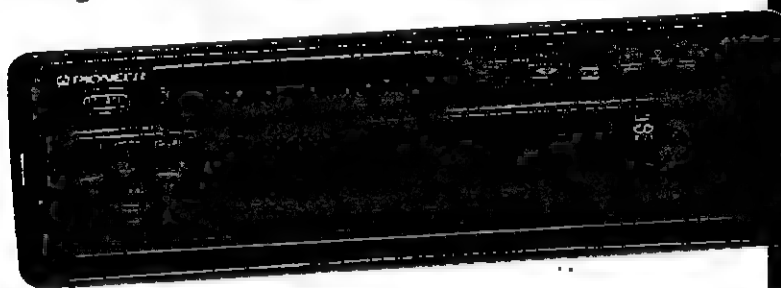
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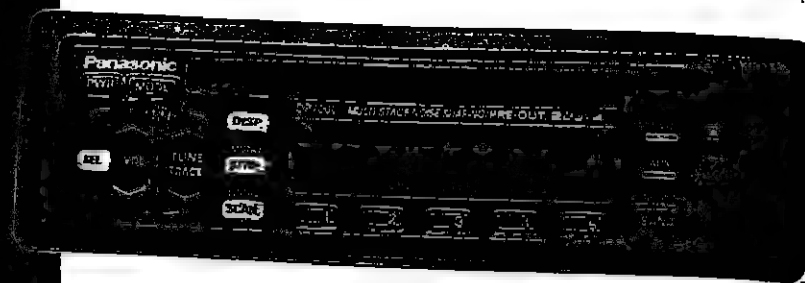
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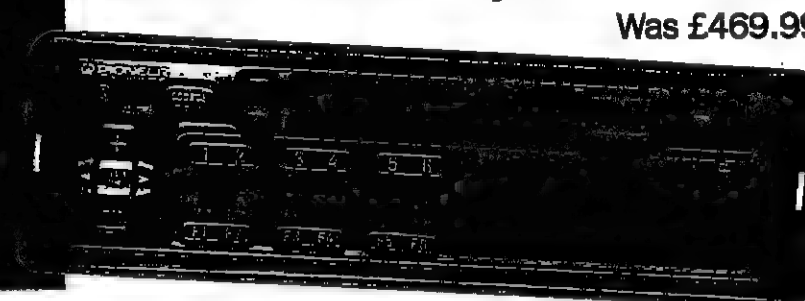
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صكرا من الالاحل

Italy and Germany flex their muscles as 'obstructive' Britain is prodded back into European fold

'Mad cows' will not block path to single currency

FROM RICHARD OWEN
IN ROME

INTERVIEW

LAMBERTO DINI, the Italian Foreign Minister, yesterday said his country would not allow the row over "mad cow" disease to disrupt today's Florence summit at the expense of European integration and "irreversible" progress toward a single currency.

John Major should by now have sufficient reassurance that we are on our way to agreement over British beef," he said. Signor Dini and Professor Romano Prodi, the Italian Prime Minister, would meet Mr Major and Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, early this morning to try to ensure that Britain did not push all other business aside.

Signor Dini appeared confident and relaxed, joking that he would offer Mr Major and other European Union leaders *bistecca fiorentina*, the thick, charcoal-grilled steak speciality of Florence, his home town. "I am sure they will love it," he said with a broad grin.

The Foreign Minister, a former central banker and international economist who was caretaker Prime Minister for the first four months of the year, is more experienced in international affairs than Signor Prodi, the mild-mannered economics professor who steered his Centre-Left coalition to victory in April's election.

Signor Dini and Signor Prodi are pinning their hopes for a smooth end to Italy's EU presidency on the framework agreement and Britain's latest concessions on slaughtering cattle. "I do not believe the British will engage in boycotts and disrupt the meeting in Florence," he said in an interview in his Rome office before leaving for Florence. "It just doesn't make sense. The issue has already been overtaken by

events." Signor Dini said that job creation and monetary union were at the top of the Florence agenda. "Monetary union is a historic step, and we cannot afford to fail. It must be an irreversible move, and there must be no watering down of the Maastricht criteria for joining the single currency."

Signor Dini said: "BSE will not dominate the summit."

impediment to Italy's handling of EU business. Britain's policy of non-cooperation had been a "hindrance", but had been applied in a selective manner in recent weeks. "My strong expectation is that Britain will take a co-operative attitude to the items on the Florence agenda."

He said that Italy, which hands over the presidency to Ireland on July 1, had succeeded in launching the inter-governmental conference (IGC) in Turin in March, even though it was overshadowed by "mad cow" disease.

The IGC agenda on reforming Maastricht deals with the powers of EU institutions, cross-border issues such as immigration, employment and Europe, and common foreign and defence policy. He said Italy had been able to keep foreign policy on track by holding two summits on Bosnia, and had identified areas for compromise for a draft IGC treaty later this year. "We are on our way," he said. "We are creating a new Europe for the year 2000."

Signor Dini said he and Mr Major had agreed on the mechanism for regulating the relationship between those inside the single currency and those outside it: the "ins and outs". He expected the lira to rejoin the exchange-rate mechanism soon, perhaps by the autumn, to prepare for Italian membership of the single currency.

The lira had shown strength and stability since the Centre-Left Government was formed, and inflation had fallen. The Prodi administration has outlined spending cuts of £6.5 billion to reduce the budget deficit without, so far, arousing the discontent that has hit France and Germany.

Leading article and letters, page 23
Florence Supplement



Dini: monetary union a priority

neither will it disrupt it. "Mad cow" disease is not a political issue. It is a health issue which has political consequences."

Substantial progress had been made in the past few days on the British position, taking into account the views of the EU scientific committee, the veterinary committee and the new multi-disciplinary committee.

British beef exports to non-EU "third countries" remained a problem, but the agreement on how to proceed with slaughtering was "an important step forward".

Signor Dini insisted that neither Italy's temporary political chaos nor "mad cow" disease had been a major



An Italian police sharpshooter takes part in security training for today's European summit in Florence

Bonn stakes claim for Europol deal

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

GERMANY yesterday welcomed the movement towards a deal on British beef and suggested it was up to London now to show flexibility on Europol, Helmut Kohl's cherished project to create a European police agency.

A senior Bonn government adviser said the British programme, approved by the European Union veterinary committee, was a "step in the right direction". He praised it as giving a clear priority for health concerns and because there was "a clear commitment to an inter-disciplinary committee as well as pledges on control mechanisms and permanent supervision".

But the adviser, very close to the Chancellor, was cautious about whether the beef war would be resolved at the Florence European summit today. "I do not believe there will be a row, but we have to

wait for the summit discussions," he said. It was improbable that there would be a final agreement at Florence. Details had to be worked out by agriculture and health ministers.

The adviser suggested that the rhythm of the Florence summit was supposed to help to ease the way towards an agreement on beef. The issue would be discussed only at

the summit. The senior adviser said that Germany had noted positive tendencies in Britain about Europol, adding: "We are relatively hopeful on the matter because of the BSE plan."

Britain has objected to the role of the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg, in ruling on disputes within Europol and that has slowed acceptance of a legal convention.

The Interior Ministry State Secretary, made plain this week that Bonn saw a direct link between German flexibility on British beef and British flexibility on Europol. He said Germany assumed that a relaxation of the export restrictions on British beef would persuade London to lift its blockade of European business and therefore "Europol could become a substantial point of negotiation in Florence".

As the *Süddeutsche Zeitung* put it yesterday: "Horse-trading over Europol; mad bulls to be exchanged for European policemen."

German negotiators believe that an opt-in clause for Europol — in which member states will have the right but not the duty to consult the European Court of Justice — will allow Britain to overcome its doubts.

Major's guide to roast beef mentality

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN
IN MADRID

JOHN MAJOR yesterday invoked the spirit of roast beef in a signed article for the conservative Madrid daily *ABC*.

In a long and elegant essay entitled "A solution for the beef crisis", the Prime Minister said that Britain could not tolerate such an attack on its national interests as the worldwide ban on British beef exports.

The beef industry, Mr Major wrote, "is a part of the psyche of our nation". He said: "For Germany, forests play a special part in her national life. For France, it is her language and cultural traditions. For Britain, our seas and the roast beef of Old

DOWNING STREET

England' matter more deeply than the simple bald economic figures say." Moving deftly from rhetorical flourish to expression of principle, Mr Major insisted that "free trade is a fundamental principle of the European Union which cannot be set aside without very good reason". The EU ban on British beef, he said, "was a disproportionate reaction unjustified by science, which has unsettled beef markets across Europe".

There were four elements, Mr Major wrote, to the beef crisis: "Animal health, public health, consumer confidence and politics." The EU had banned beef exports "because these four issues have become jumbled up".

He said: "Our task is to separate them and make sure we have sensible solutions for each of them... consumer confidence is not a basis for banning trade but I accept that it is important."

Ending his article on a conciliatory note, Mr Major said that at the Florence summit he would be "very willing to listen to the ideas which our partners bring to the table" so that a framework for agreement could be constructed. He concluded: "For that is how Europe works: with goodwill by all."

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Ruthless Yeltsin punishes allies' blunder

Detention of campaign chiefs a huge political error by President's oldest and closest aides

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Yeltsin yesterday acted with icy ruthlessness when he sacked three of his oldest and closest aides.

The trio had organised the arrest on Wednesday afternoon of two key members of Mr Yeltsin's campaign team after accusations that they had illegally taken \$500,000 (£320,000) in cash from the government headquarters.

The men, who were held for 11 hours, were Sergei Lisovsky, a show business entrepreneur, and Arkadi Yevstafyev, a television chief. They had orchestrated the highly successful media blitz that helped President Yeltsin's strong showing in the first round of elections on Sunday.

The money was intended to pay for a new programme of pro-Yeltsin pop concerts. Their detention was a huge political blunder. As news leaked out, Mr Yeltsin was forced to dismiss General Aleksandr Kozhakov, General Mikhail Barsukov and Oleg Soskovets after years in his personal service.

General Kozhakov, Mr Yeltsin's long-time bodyguard, had remained at his side for a decade and had built up a formidable power base inside the Kremlin.

Similarly General Barsukov, the head of the successor to the KGB, served for years under Mr Yeltsin and

personally led the storming of the White House during the October 1993 uprising. Mr Soskovets was dismissed from his post as first deputy prime minister.

Anatoli Chubais, Mr Yeltsin's campaign chief, said that the detentions and subsequent interrogations were intended as the first of many moves, which would effectively have led to a "coup".

"We are convinced that these arrests would have been followed by other measures against top members of the President's election staff," he said.

Mr Chubais had angered the hardline trio earlier this year when he effectively took control of the presidential campaign from Mr Soskovets and turned an uninspired and doomed re-election bid into a professional and slick operation.

The turmoil in Russian politics could help or hinder President Yeltsin's re-election bid. Although the public power struggle did little to enhance his image as a stable leader, he did sack three highly unpopular figures.

"As I see it, three days ago when Boris Yeltsin appointed [Aleksandr] Lebed secretary of the Security Council, he drove the last nail into the coffin of the history of Russian communism," said Mr Chubais.



General Aleksandr Kozhakov, left, President Yeltsin's bodyguard, and Mikhail Barsukov, his security chief, who were sacked yesterday

Great 'untouchable' falls foul of the tsar he made

FROM THOMAS DE WAAL IN MOSCOW

OVER the past few years, President Yeltsin has dismissed dozens of advisers and ministers, acting on Stalin's maxim that "no one is irreplaceable". But until yesterday Aleksandr Kozhakov, his most trusted aide, was untouchable and effectively the second most powerful

man in the country. The former KGB bodyguard was the head of a cabal that behaved increasingly arrogantly and whose writ went unchallenged in Moscow. He was credited with having a malign influence on the President that had turned him into an autocratic tsar.

The two men had been inseparable for more than ten years. The thick-set General

Kozhakov has guarded Mr Yeltsin since he arrived in Moscow in 1985 to become boss of the Moscow Communist Party. When Mikhail Gorbachev sacked Mr Yeltsin in 1987, General Kozhakov went with him into political exile. Then the two men returned to power. In October 1993, General Kozhakov was indispensable once again. When the standoff between

Mr Yeltsin and his parliamentary opposition was spinning out of control, he helped to persuade the army to use tanks against the White House.

General Kozhakov's analysts had reportedly predicted a gloomier outcome in the presidential poll than what emerged on June 16, with Mr Yeltsin in the lead. His over-optimistic estimate of Mr

Yeltsin's chances of a democratic victory probably angered his boss and helped to seal his fate.

A former KGB security officer, Mikhail Barsukov, 48, followed General Kozhakov to become commander of the Kremlin guards in 1992. He established himself as a loyal but ruthless officer when he led the bloody commando attack on the White House.



Pavel Grachev

Age 48. Although not directly involved in yesterday's intrigue, the Defence Minister was sacked on Tuesday in the first signal of a purge of hardliners by Mr Yeltsin. General Grachev, longest serving minister in the Cabinet, became unpopular for alleged mishandling of the Chechen war. His removal became inevitable after Aleksandr Lebed, his fellow paratrooper officer and main detractor, was appointed security chief.



Oleg Soskovets

Age 47. Position: former First Deputy Prime Minister. A former metals industry boss with strong ties to the powerful military-industrial complex, Mr Soskovets had hoped one day to be groomed as a successor to the Kremlin leadership. Although details of his exact role in this week's Kremlin intrigue were still not clear, there was no doubt in anyone's mind that the grey-haired hardliner was at the core of the latest skulduggery.

Aleksandr Lebed

Age 46. Position: Russia's security chief. Former commander of Russia's 14th Army. He fought a highly professional presidential campaign, coming third in last Sunday's race. As the country's new security chief, he has become Russia's second most powerful figure.



Anatoli Chubais

Age 41. Position: Yeltsin campaign manager. Mr Chubais's political career seemed finished earlier this year when he was sacked as Russia's privatisation minister. But the pro-Western economist re-established himself when he took over the Yeltsin re-election campaign.



Sergei Lisovsky

Age 36. Position: showbiz promoter and Yeltsin campaign consultant. A classic "new Russian" entrepreneur, Mr Lisovsky's skills were put to use spearheading the "Vote or lose" campaign to attract young Russian voters through nationwide pop concerts.



Arkadi Yevstafyev

Age 36. Position: deputy head of Russian television and Yeltsin campaign co-ordinator. As the former spokesman and aide of Anatoli Chubais, Mr Yevstafyev was brought in to assist the Yeltsin re-election team and helped to mastermind the television blitz which rallied support.



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adjustable steering column, electric windows and sound system.

The bucket seats have been ergonomically designed: decidedly sporty in shape, they are heavily bolstered for good support and comfort.

For obvious reasons, security on the Spider has to be stringent and the sports car is fitted with a sophisticated on-board immobiliser system which freezes the engine management computer, preventing the engine from being started without the correct key.

It also has a remote controlled alarm system with an ultrasonic facility and all windows are etched with the vehicle's identification number.

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FROM BEN MACINTYRE
IN FAIRIE

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

Arundhati Ghose, India's

Greenpeace said yesterday that it applauded India's sentiments, but deplored any veiled threats that it would refuse to

Already 16,000 people have signed a petition opposing the plans and a mass protest rally was due to be held last night next to the former paint shop. The campaign to stop the new McDonald's has little hope of success. The chain already has all the necessary permits.

FROM QUENTIN LETTS
THE KILLER WOMAN

She herself was injured, but investigators said that her knife wounds were self-sustained. Mrs Routier's husband, Darin, was upstairs at the time of the attack with their third son, eight months old. He only heard of the

attack when he was awoken by his blood-stained wife. Although Mrs Routier has given a description of an attacker — a white man, she said, with dark clothes and a baseball cap — police fear he

Norm Kinne, for the District Attorney's Office, would not comment on reports that

the Routier children's lives were heavily insured and that there were financial troubles. Mrs Routier's mother said that the policies were worth \$5,000 (£3,200) — "barely enough to bury the babies".

FROM ROGER MAYNARD
IN SYDNEY

The latest allegations come just over a week after the appointment of a former British police chief, Peter Ryan, as head of the police force, which is regarded as the most corrupt in Australia.

**FROM TOM RHODES
IN WASHINGTON**

The Drug Enforcement Administration will classify Rohypnol as a Schedule I drug within three months. This will increase penalties for possession and prevent the drug from dominating the club scene in America, where

Manufactured by Hoffmann-La Roche of Switzerland, Rohypnol, which has also been dubbed the "date-rape drug", has not been approved for sale in America but is prescribed in 64 other countries as a treatment for insomnia. It is also prescribed before major surgery. Cur-

drinks of young women with the odourless, colourless and tasteless drug. Its effects are apparent within 15 minutes.

Last night the company announced it was providing a testing service for Rohypnol at no cost to law enforcement agencies and rape crisis centres throughout America.

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Whitewater lawyer poses key threat to Clinton re-election

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

THE man most capable of denying President Clinton a second term is no longer Bob Dole, perceived by critics as one of the least inspiring presidential candidates in memory, but Kenneth Starr, the puritanical Republican lawyer who is the Whitewater special prosecutor.

A *Washington Post* poll yesterday showed Mr Clinton maintaining a 20-point lead over Mr Dole, suggesting voters remain largely indifferent to the allegations of sleaze that Republicans have been hurling at the White House.

But were Mr Starr to announce concrete criminal charges against the President or Hillary Clinton before November, that picture would change overnight. Unless Mr Clinton stepped down voluntarily, Americans would have to decide whether to return a leader knowing he faced possible impeachment and the First Lady possible conviction. Mr Dole would instantly become the safe choice.

Mr Starr and his team of

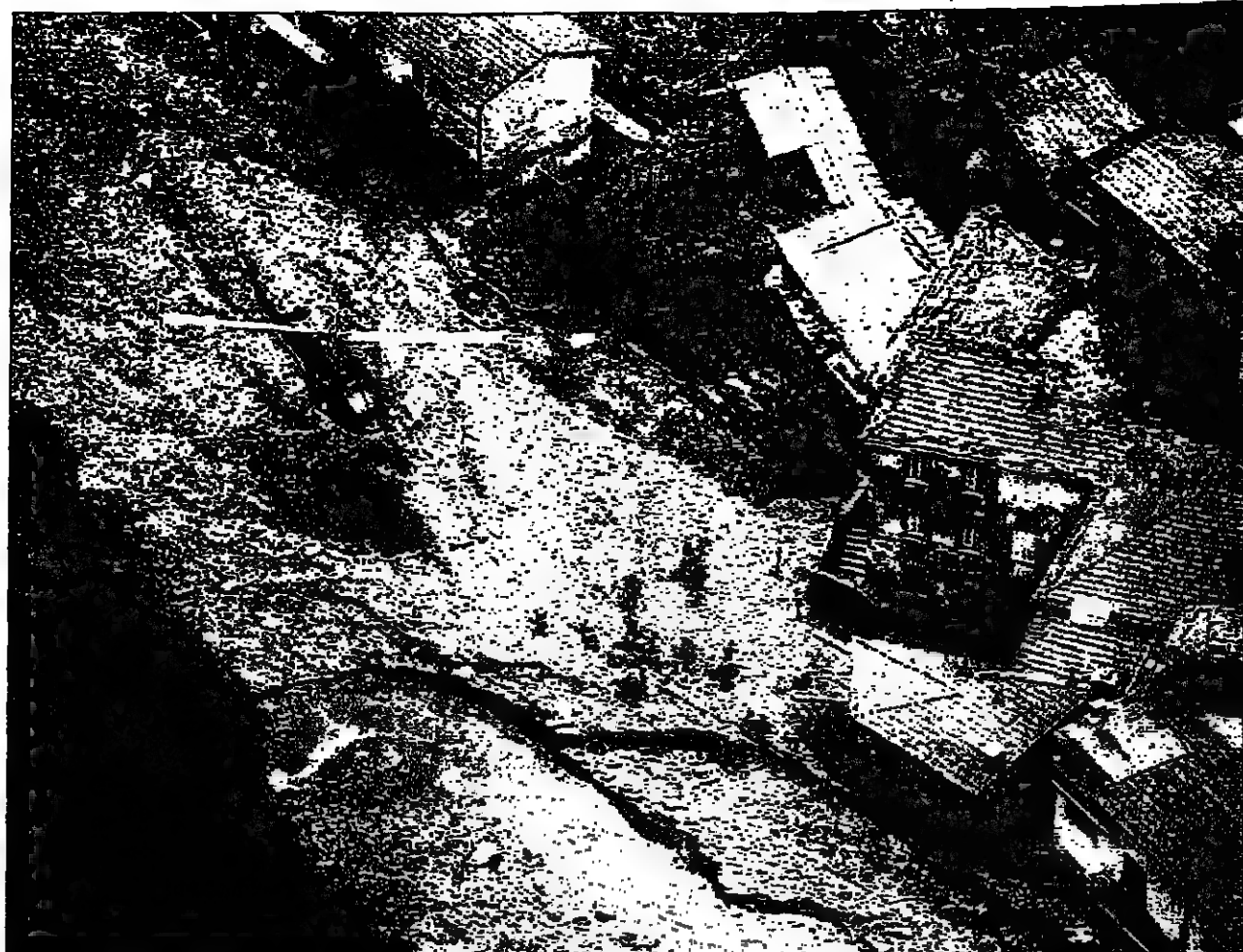
about 40 lawyers, FBI agents and financial experts have been quietly beavering away in Little Rock, the state capital of Arkansas, and Washington for 22 months at a cost of \$30 million (£19.5 million).

He has been examining everything from the Clintons' financial entanglements in Arkansas to the alleged obstruction of federal investigations in Washington and the dismissal of the White House travel staff. Janet Reno, the Attorney-General, yesterday expanded his brief to include the White House's improper acquisition of 400 FBI background files on Republican officials.

Mr Starr gives no interviews, and nobody knows what he has discovered, but the White House has reason to fret. He has had 12 people convicted, including Webster Hubbell, the former Associate Attorney-General and Mrs Clinton's old law firm partner. Jim Guy Tucker, Mr Clinton's successor as Arkansas Governor, and James and Susan

McDougal, the Clintons' former partners in the Whitewater Development Company. He has twice visited the White House to interview the Clintons under oath, and in January issued an unprecedented subpoena against Mrs Clinton, ordering her to testify before a grand jury about the mysterious discovery of long-sought documents in her private quarters. There seems little doubt he is building a case against the First Lady.

Mr Starr, 49, was born within a month of Mr Clinton, in a small Texas town. He was first in his law school class, and the youngest judge ever appointed to the US Circuit Court of Appeals. Mr Clinton's 1992 victory dashed Mr Starr's dream of a Supreme Court seat. He considered running for the Senate but opted to make \$1.2 million a year in private practice. It cannot have escaped Mr Starr that if Mr Dole wins in November he could yet gain that cherished Supreme Court nomination.



The Italian village of Montepania lies partly submerged after heavy flooding devastated western Tuscany yesterday. The death toll in the region rose to nine as Italy's new Environment Minister said past governments had not done enough

Nine die in Tuscan floods

to prevent such disasters. Rivers burst their banks, sweeping away cars, flooding houses and cutting off roads to several villages on the coastal plain and in foothills inland from the Mediterranean port of Massa. The dead were recovered from mudslides in the provinces of Lucca and Massa. Maria Antonietta Cerniglia

co-ordinator of a crisis centre in Lucca, said 25 people were missing. "This tragedy is not due to fate, but to negligence and a prevention policy that has not yet been put into action," Edo Ronchi, the Environment Minister, said. (Reuters)

WORLD SUMMARY

Dissident challenge to Peking

Hong Kong: Wang Xizhe, one of China's best known dissidents, has charged the police with acting illegally and demanded compensation for his detention for 15 days just before the seventh anniversary of the 1989 Tiananmen killings (Jonathan Mirkis writes).

"You treated me like a dog," Mr Wang wrote yesterday to the Legal Affairs Department of the National People's Congress. "You should request all relevant authorities to apologise and compensate me for all losses." He also contested the right of police to arrest him.

Rwanda scraps old passports

Kigali: Rwanda has begun issuing new passports, rendering worthless thousands of passports held by its Hutu enemies in exile and effectively denying them citizenship. Theoneste Mutsindashyamba, the Deputy Interior Minister, said the old passports, issued by the regime of the assassinated Hutu former President Habyarimana, would be invalid after September 30. He described the government move as an important security measure. (Reuters)

Bougainville rebels attacked

Port Moresby: Papua New Guinea said it had launched a major offensive against rebels on the province of Bougainville island, despite a plea by its key aid donor and neighbour Australia not to escalate the conflict. The Government said the offensive was aimed at the 10 per cent of the resource-rich island which is controlled by the rebel Bougainville Revolutionary Army. (Reuters)

Minister rejects koala slaughter

Sydney: Robert Hill, Australia's National Environment Minister, rejected a proposal by the country's National Conservation Agency for a koala cull. The agency had argued that a cull was the humane option because on some islands booming populations of the leaf-eating animals are facing starvation after stripping the trees. (Reuters)

What goes up ...

New York: "Buzz" Aldrin, the second man to set foot on the Moon, is to visit the sunken wreck of the Titanic in person, diving with a team of experts, as part of a special expedition cruise in late August. (AFP)

Second term for UN chief challenged

BY TOM RHODES AND MICHAEL BINYON

AMERICA said yesterday that it was prepared to use its veto to prevent Boutros Boutros Ghali standing for a second term as United Nations Secretary-General.

In what was described as an irrevocable decision by the Clinton Administration, Warren Christopher, the Secretary of State, informed the UN chief that he could expect no support from America. "President Clinton and the Secretary of State have decided new leadership is needed," said Nicholas Burns, of the State Department.

The announcement came hours after Dr Boutros Ghali, 73, said he would certainly seek a second five-year mandate. He said in Bonn yesterday that he hoped America would change its mind.

His announcement led to statements by two other candidates mooted for the job that they were withdrawing. Mary Robinson, the Irish President, and Gro Harlem Brundtland, the Norwegian Prime Minister. The third woman favoured is Sadako Ogata, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. She did not issue any statement yesterday.

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صكنا من المصل

Peter Mayer on the departure which is sending a shudder through the publishing world

'I want a bit less pressure in life'

There comes a time in the life of every whizz-kid when he has to stop whizzing. Even a big, broad, brash corporate emperor like Peter Mayer — who yesterday announced that he is stepping aside as chairman and chief executive of Penguin in order, as he put it, "to be able to play tennis at lunchtime".

The event may not appear cataclysmic outside the self-regarding publishing world. But Penguin Books occupies a hallowed place in the British reader's heart. Allen Lane's sixpenny paperbacks, launched 60 years ago, created a revolution in reading habits of Caxtonian proportions, and everything Mayer has done since he arrived from New York to take control of the empire 20 years ago has been noted, marvelled at, scorned, and copied.

The Penguin 60p mini-books have sold 24 million in less than nine months — an idea which came to him and his colleague Peter Carson when they spied some little 100-peseta books in Spain, and adapted the idea within months, in time for Penguin's 60th anniversary.

Mayer's laudable tennis-at-lunchtime aim — which comes to most sane men well before the 60th birthday he reached a month ago — will be perfectly achievable in his new life running the small office of Overlook Books, the imprint he invented with his father 25 years ago and which he will now begin distributing in Britain, too.

Yesterday morning he flew in from New York — in considerable discomfort, with his right leg stuck out rigidly in the aisle after an operation on his knee — to address the London staff personally. "I didn't think it was right, somehow, to send a fax saying 'As you have read in the press'."

They cannot have been too astonished: the malaise at Penguin UK has been apparent for some time; rumours have flown, key figures such as the editor Panny Blake have

THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW



departed, and people have been asking him for the past year how long he was planning to stay. "And I couldn't lie, so I always said I had plans for a second life."

But he was not pushed. Pearson made him an attractive offer to stay, but he knew he would have to leave some time "because that's what happens in corporate life, you can't stay for ever. So I decided: 'Why not do it now, when I can run my own company in the way I want, for as long as I want?'"

Mayer was an only child, born in London, where the family had a small flat in Fitzjohn's Avenue, Hampstead. They emigrated to America during the war, when he was four. Later, after getting a degree in Eng Lit at Columbia, and another in German Literature on a Fulbright in Berlin, Mayer read PPE at Christ Church, Oxford.

His arrival back in London in 1978 created great waves. The Pearson Group, owners of Penguin, allowed him absolute freedom and his aplomb and energy invigorated an ailing company. His salary was said to be the largest in publishing, plus a percentage "which everyone acknowledges he deserves" (Anthony Blond, in *The Book Book*).

What did Mayer do that was so extraordinary? Well, it sounds jolly tame now but as soon as he arrived on the scene

he put a picture of two people kissing on the cover of M.M. Kaye's *The Far Pavilions*. The novel, published in hardback by Allen Lane, was already a bestseller. Mayer marketed the paperback deliberately as commercial fiction (not Penguin's strong suit at the time) by enlarging the format, using the Mills & Boon-style cover, doubling the retail price, asking the author to lower her royalty if he increased the print run and more than doubled the marketing budget. "It upset a lot of people," he says, "but it worked."

Another ploy was to seize the Booker shortlist in 1980 and publish five of the six shortlisted titles in paperback several weeks before the right the winner was decided — William Golding. By the following year, everyone had got wise: no publisher would let the predatory Mayer have their paperback rights so easily, so it was an idea killed off by its success.

There have been some hiccups in his tenure as dynamic chief executive. Calling out for more cigarettes to be fetched, between laughs and coughs, he recalls that he had a presumed lung cancer a few years ago, but it turned out to be a false alarm.

He also punctured a lung in an accident 300 yards from his house in Kensington, when he fell out of the car while the car was moving round a corner. "I was in intensive care for a very long time and it was tough and go. More go than touch," he guffaws. "You keep replacing the parts external to the engine. I have very little of the original equipment left, but the important parts are original."

He was also stricken when his glamorous American wife Mary Hall Mayer left him some years ago. But there is a new love in his life. "I have a very wonderful friend and partner, Inez, who happens to be an independent and private Dutch lady." She runs a restaurant in Amsterdam, which would appear to be an obstacle to romance with a

publisher in New York. "But my 13-year-old daughter Liese — she is named after my mother — is a teen queen at school in England, and we have plenty of frequent flyer points, so we will both go back and forth a great deal."

Mayer's latest publishing deal was to pay a sum "considerably north of five million dollars" (actually \$6,500,000) for a novel by Terry McMillan, author of *Waiting to Exhale*, named *How Stella Got Her Groove Back*. "It's about a woman of 40 who meets a young man on holiday in Jamaica, and I think the title describes the theme." More splutters of coughs and laughter. Then there is Bill Gates's *The Road Ahead*, and Stephen King's novel in six monthly instalments: 13 million sold worldwide already.

Won't he miss being able to talk in these rows of noughts? "You reach a certain point in your life when you don't have the same economic drive. You still like doing what you were doing, but you want to do it with a bit less pressure. And if you happen to own 100 per cent of a small imprint, that becomes a pretty attractive option. Actually, publishing is not about being big, it's about publishing good books profitably."

The Overlook Press, whose current list includes Larkin, Terence Conran, Freya Stark, Paul Auster and Ian McKellen, was specifically created "not to pursue bestsellers". But wait.

Ed Victor, the agent who normally talks only in megabucks, says he will be knocking on Mayer's door at Overlook: "Too many publishers have got so large they just print books, put a cover on and send them out along well-worn grooves. Peter will be able to give all his commanding attention to his titles, he will grow into a mid-size company, and I will be beating a path to his door."

It seems appropriate that we are in the Milestone Hotel.



The final chapter at Penguin Books: "You decide you can't stay for ever," says Peter Mayer

THE SUNDAY TIMES

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The Sunday Times Magazine reveals the latest
uplifting side of fashion

THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

WHITE HOUSE visitors noticed a striking young woman at Bill Clinton's state dinner for the President of Ireland the other night. She wore a long, periwinkle-blue dress and a self-control rare in one so young. As she waited in the queue going into dinner, she held her chin high.

When the demure young woman reached the front of the line and it was her turn to be introduced to the two Presidents, the veteran White House toastmaster needed no prompting for her particulars. His strong voice called forth her name with a hint of pride: "Miss Chelsea Clinton!"

The 16-year-old conducted herself with aplomb. Her success was not unexpected because Chelsea has come a long way since the early days of the Clinton presidency when, poor thing, she was going through that gawky phase every cygnet must en-



Miss Clinton, demure at 16

dure before it becomes a swan. Her teeth were awful, the hairstyle was a shocker, and there were those specs. Inevitably, she was pictured in the newspapers, and there were smirky references on the comedy circuit. For three years, the two words "Chelsea Clinton" secured an easy laugh in every boys' classroom in the land.

The periwinkle-blue number at Mary Robinson's state dinner showed that the goofy days are over. Chelsea now looks rather better, popularity-wise, than her parents. Bill and Hillary have Whitewater, Travelgate and the FBI files rumpus. Chelsea has contact lenses, straight teeth and an improving complexion.

She went to her school prom (end-of-year dance) a few weeks ago and has apparently just started to "date". Her bloke at the school dance was said to be "a quite handsome young gentleman". It takes a special sort of child to be able to carry on as normal when the press follows every spot of your ado-

Chelsea flowers

The President's little cygnet has become a swan, says Quentin Letts

lescent progress — as our own James Major and Peter Phillips have shown with such splendid indifference.

The "new" Chelsea was

seen for the first time when she accompanied her mother on a sweep through Bosnia, Turkey and Greece earlier this year. By the end of the

trip, wits asked: "Who's that old frump standing next to Chelsea?"

The Clintons have projected the view that they want Chelsea's childhood protected. And they probably deserve credit for the way they have generally resisted using her as a political tool — although that trip to Eastern Europe, and the use of Chelsea as an Olympic torch-bearer, look uncomfortably like stunts.



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Fly-on-the-wall wedding photos

Today's brides want to catch the spontaneity of the big day but their mothers are not so sure, reports Candida Crewe

Recently a friend telephoned a week before her wedding. "Please help me," she said in a tone so desperate it sounded as if she'd been jilted by her husband-to-be. "Do you know anyone who can take the pictures?"

She didn't want the predictable group photographs available from any high street photographer. No, she was after a reportage approach, some beautiful black and white prints in the style of Henri Cartier-Bresson or Robert Doisneau. Jasper Courran, she said, had been flattered when she asked him to design her dress, but when it had come to asking photographer friends to take the pictures, "they all looked as if I'd asked them to eat compost".

There is an increasing demand by couples for a record of their big day which is different from the usual, formal fare. Tastes are changing. While people still want a photographer to take pictures of the family groups, more and more want "happy snaps" of guests as well.

It is a tall order. While the high street photographer is the master of efficiently drilling every last bridesmaid and granny to pose in the relevant groups, he is less good at doing the more spontaneous job of capturing everyone else just enjoying themselves.

And while any amateur or professional photographer friend may do a better job with the "happy snaps", he or she will surely balk at having to do what his high street counterpart has perfected. The fact is, most friends hate covering weddings, whatever the terms.

Why? Well, Timothy Spall's character in Mike Leigh's *Secrets & Lies* perfectly illustrates how hard the wedding photographer has to work, and what a lonely job it can be. Regular photographers are almost always snooty about doing weddings. Lord Snowdon stopped doing them in the 1950s and, when asked about the subject, said: "I don't want to talk about that."

The put-upon wedding photographer, who has to be

constantly encouraging, appears to be the poor relation among photographers (although, in reality, he is often rich — all those reprints, remember). The irony is that while nobody really wants him around — he's often in the way and there's something crude about snapping away, particularly in a church — everyone is devastated if the results aren't perfect.

It is no wonder that photographers who don't do this type of photography for a living are often loath to do the honours as a favour. First, they can't enjoy the party. Secondly, it is exhausting — one photographer told me he always has to take a week off after doing a wedding. Thirdly, it is an enormous responsibility. If he is to get any fun out of covering a wedding at all, he tends to take the meaning of the word reportage too literally, and is too often tempted to capture the immodest back view of a granny scratching her backside.

The intentions of photographer and client just don't marry. As Lord Lichfield says: "The documentary approach is all very well as far as magazines are concerned, but it's just not going to please the bride's mother."

These are the most important pictures in a couple's life. These are the ones likely to be passed down the generations. They eclipse even snaps of mothers with newborns in terms of significance. Woe betide the photographer who messes up his job or fails to deliver the goods.

When my father married my stepmother he asked his friend, David Bailey, to do the pictures. That was in 1969. They divorced in 1982 but they're still waiting for the photographs. To give Bailey his due, wedding photographs are a nightmare to reproduce: hours in the darkroom doing endless different prints. And because they are usually taken in the spirit of a wedding present, the couple can hardly force the issue.

So couples are left with little option but to hire a professional wedding photographer who



Brides' mothers still want group shots, but more and more brides are breaking with tradition and asking for reportage-style pictures. The question is, can photographers do both?

can, for the most part, be relied upon to get it right, even if the results tend to be dated, stiff, even corny. Brides' mothers, especially, want the formal record of the day.

Even so, there does seem to be a market for a new type of professional wedding photographer: one who can take less clichéd group photographs if required, yet concentrates on capturing the spirit of the occasion.

Lichfield is perhaps the most famous of non-wedding photographers who does weddings. He photographed the wedding of the Prince and Princess of Wales in 1981. "The technical demands were precise but not daunting," he told me, "if you could overcome the sense of occasion. It was actually just a village wedding magnified about three million times." Lichfield, who has only done three weddings since, likes covering big, complicated



Natural poses of guests are popular

weddings because, he says, "the sense of organisation and administration appeals to my military nature". But he refuses to do the (non-royal) weddings of friends on anything but his own terms.

"It's the only kind of photography, other than news photography, that you can't retake, so there is tension. In the 1960s, before I had an assistant, I was processing some wedding pictures when my cleaner opened the darkroom door and that was the end of that. To this day, I have a red light which flashes outside the darkroom when I'm in it. And I once managed to fuse the whole of the Savoy Hotel at a reception." More than 30 years on he laughs just thinking about it.

Lichfield, who charges "not the top of the going rate" for weddings, subscribes to the view that wedding photography can be hellish to do. "You're the bad fairy," he says, "because you're the only person telling people to do something that's not fun. Once I've taken a few groups, and have got the couple cutting the cake, then I like to do anything I like, and without a flash."

But rarely these days can Lichfield be prevailed upon to do weddings, even those of friends' children. "At my age," he says, "it's intolerable to lose precious Saturdays. It's my one day to see the garden, and I won't go anywhere in June during the Test match."

So who is there to fill the gap between the high street photographer and flaky photographer friends?

Sandra Boler, editor of

Brides magazine, says: "Some of the most beautiful wedding photographs I have ever seen are black and white ones by fashion photographers." Ms Boler herself was fortunate in that she had Stanley Devon, a *Vogue* photographer, to do her wedding.

David Montgomery, a friend, also said he'd be there taking wonderful pictures. It was lucky he wasn't the only one because he lost the plot, then the pictures. I think we got them about 25 years later."

But not all of us can count fashion photographers among our personal acquaintances. It so happens that the most popular section in *Brides* is "Real Life Brides". Every month the magazine sends along one of its own photographers to cover an "ordinary" wedding. Among the freelance bunch are those who hire themselves out to the public.

The girls who appear in "Real Life Brides" do have their own official photographer, says Ms Boler, "whose presence tends to make everyone stiffen, but who is indispensable because he never leaves anyone out. Our own photographers just snap away all day long. There's no bossiness. People forget they're there. A lot of them are women and they're brilliant, perhaps because they have more empathy with the day. Inevitably when the bride comes into the magazine to see the results, she loves them."

One of the "Real Life Brides" photographers is Jennifer Abbott. She took up wedding photography when she moved to the country and her children left home. A former art director, she believes that the idea of the wedding photograph as "various relations in different combinations stuck in front of the camera" is a hangover from the Victorian era when plate cameras couldn't move. "I realised, to make money, I had got to do something nobody else does, and nobody does wedding pictures like mine."

Hers is a lucrative business. "Working girls with some sort of eye want me," says Ms Abbott. "I just spend the day following people around. The biggest compliment I ever have is when people mistake me for just another guest."

HOW TO CHOOSE YOUR PHOTOGRAPHER

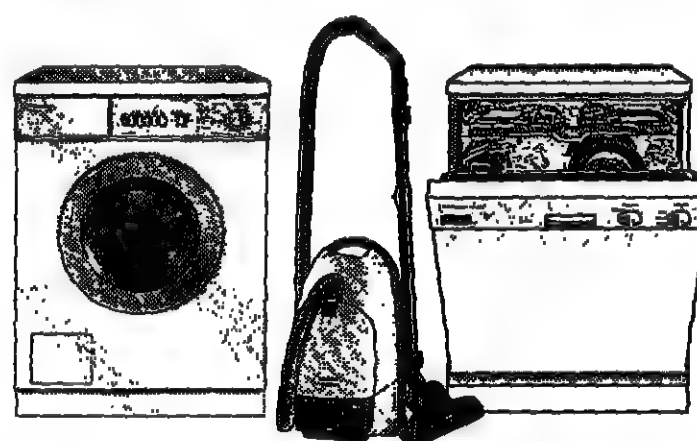
Alternative wedding photographers recommended by *Brides* magazine:
Jennifer Abbott (0181-741 752)
Sean Cunningham (0171-703 4309)
Jeremy Enness (0181-943 1684)
Theodore Wood (0181-390 5071)

And one highly recommended by word of mouth: Kim Hooper (01734 750436). All the above work under different terms and conditions. Some show portfolios, others do not (it is always worth asking to see one). Some work in black and white only; some hand over negatives. Some have assistants; others work alone. Their fees vary from £250 a day to £600. For some that includes a

certain number of prints, even a fully made-up album. For others it is a day rate only and reprints are not included.

The terms always depend on the photographer, but some are prepared to be flexible. It is worth ringing around, pursuing your options and working out which might best suit you. Kim Hooper, for example, at £1,000 a day plus £12 for every print, is the most expensive — and proud to be. He does not show a portfolio — "Other people's weddings are private," he says — hand over negatives or work in colour, but he has been known to take at least 800 photographs in one day, and his reputation goes before him.

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Will Bruton repudiate Sinn Fein?

Conor Cruise O'Brien muses on the Taoiseach's dilemma

The so-called "peace process" has been fuelled by an illusion: that peace is attainable by compromise with Sinn Féin. From here in Dublin it is clear that all that is obtainable by way of compromise with Sinn Féin is an occasional ceasefire, followed by breakdown of the ceasefire, followed by another resumption, followed by another breakdown, and so on.

The process of seeking peace through compromise with Sinn Féin, and then clutching desperately at ephemeral ceasefires, has proved profoundly corrupting to democratic institutions, and correspondingly advantageous to the agents of the private armies.

Sinn Féin has by now acquired such a grip over certain key institutions of the Republic, and certain key sections of the media, that it is going to be difficult to break, although that is undoubtedly what John Bruton wants to do, and what probably most of the people would like to do.

To establish full control both over security and over policy towards Northern Ireland, Mr Bruton will have to clean out Iveagh House, the headquarters of the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs. As a result of the Hume-Adams agreement, the Anglo-Irish division of the Department of Foreign Affairs has become virtually a subsidiary of Sinn Féin (itself, of course, a subsidiary of the IRA).

The takeover of this department by Sinn Féin came about not as a result of paramilitary infiltration, but in consequence of the evolution of constitutional politics in Northern Ireland. For the past quarter of a century — as I know from painful experience — government officials and southern nationalist politicians of all parties have taken their cue from John Hume. "Find out what John thinks and say, 'me too'"; has been a succinct definition of the Republic's policy towards Northern Ireland in this period.

As long as Mr Hume stood for constitutional nationalism only, his influence over the Republic was not deleterious to our little democracy. But with the advent of Hume-Adams, a subtle and toxic change set in. Officials who had been "Hume people" became "Hume-Adams people". And as Gerry Adams's star rose in the Republic, as a result of the ceasefire, "Hume-Adams" was soon shortened to "Adams". Helping Gerry became the order of the day. During the ceasefire, one helped Gerry to get whatever he wanted in order to preserve the ceasefire; after the ceasefire, one helps Gerry to get what he wants in order to break the ceasefire back. Blackmail exercised by interspersing violence with ceasefires came to dominate official statements on Northern Ireland. Such statements were increasingly couched in Sinn Féin speak, a dialect habituated to combine beguiling intimations of desire for peace with rumbling undertones of menace if the peace accorded is not up to scratch.

Sinn Féin is quite sincere in professing a commitment to

the cause of peace. But it is important to know, as few do, what "peace" means in the lexicon of Sinn Féin speak. There is a key in a well known Belfast Republican graffiti: "Time For Peace, Time To Go". Those whose time it is to go are the British. Peace is the condition which will prevail (in theory) after the British go. Short of that, no peace: only the cycle of ceasefire-and-war, known as "the peace process".

The Hume-Adams axis has affected not only Anglo-Irish relations over Northern Ireland, but security within the Republic. After the end of the IRA ceasefire, Garda sources revealed that they had been required by "senior officials" during the ceasefire to refrain from any surveillance of IRA units "for fear of endangering the peace process". And after the murder of Garda McCabe, "senior officials" tried to induce Garda headquarters not to mention the IRA in connection with the murder, "for fear of endangering the peace process". Fortunately, that attempt failed. The soundness of the Garda, and their immunity from the "peace process" virus, are the most reassuring features of the otherwise disturbing condition of the Republic at present.

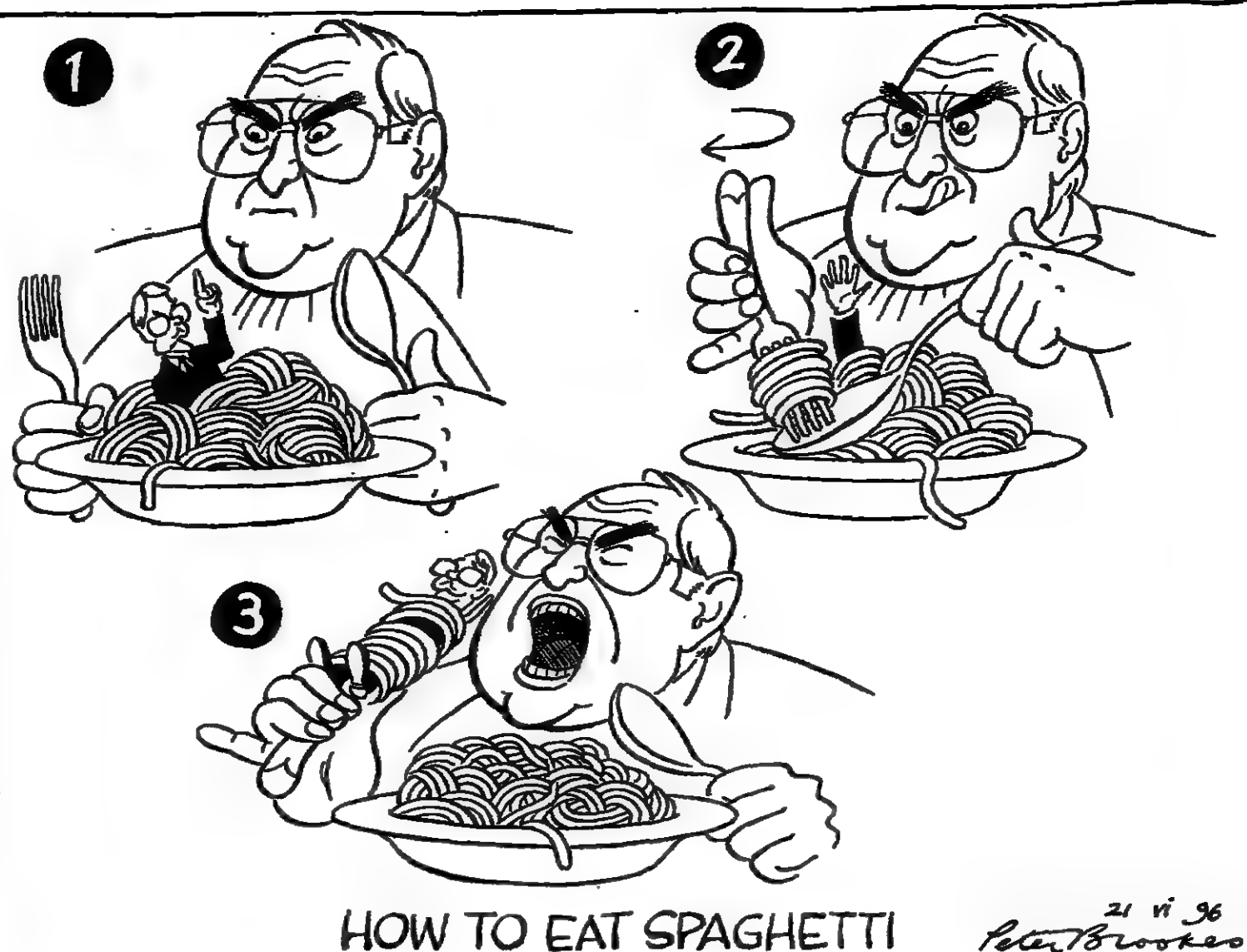
I believe that John Bruton would now like to do as the greatest of his Fine Gael predecessors, W.T. Cosgrave, did, and clamp down resolutely on the IRA. There is a clear way of doing so in the present conjuncture: order Garda to round up all the IRA active service units now operating in the Republic, and make it known that if there is any resistance to the round-up, intervention — always on the Republic's statute book — will be activated forthwith.

The present coalition Government is not nearly ready for that, nor does the British Government seem to have changed its tack, even after Manchester.

Expressing enough, both Governments have just indicated continuing adherence to "the peace process". The IRA will be glad to meet them halfway. Its communiqué claiming credit for the Manchester explosion affirmed its preparedness "to enhance the democratic peace process" — a dazzling piece of Sinn Féin speak.

There is likely to be a new ceasefire, after which Sinn Féin will be brought into the all-party peace talks, and all the Unionist parties will walk out. The rump remaining at the talks will adopt some kind of pan-nationalist agreement, which will then be repudiated by the Northern Ireland electorate, with its Unionist majority, at the ensuing referendum. Sinn Féin will then demand that the British Government enforce the national resolution and ignore "the Unionist veto". The Government will refuse, the IRA will cry "British bad faith" and resume "military operations", Manchester-style.

And perhaps then the two Governments will start treating the IRA as a security problem and not one to which there is a political solution.



HOW TO EAT SPAGHETTI

21 vi 96 Peter Brooke

The theft of knowledge

Book thieves are unlike other thieves, as books are unlike other goods

What is it that makes people (I say people, though I cannot recall a female case) want to steal books, and only books? There is almost certainly a Latin word that means "theft of manuscripts", and at first we are tempted to admire the miscreant; ah, we say, this is a man who could not afford to buy books, but loved them so — or even needed them to write an imperishable masterpiece — that the crime is excused. But although knives and forks, to say nothing of credit cards, are stolen aplenty, nobody discusses the matter as though some strange magic is afoot. It is books, and only books, that stir the pot so strangely.

What about the people who do the book-stealing? I have often read about them and their peculiar malady. Only a year or two ago there was a man whose house was so full of stolen books that he was in danger of death from them — not, as you might think, because the heaps would collapse upon him and crush him, but because he could not move about in his home even to use a saucepan or open the refrigerator (which, anyway, was full of books). Ah, we say, this man wants to gobble up all the knowledge in the world, and has just started on his amazing voyage. But the most strange and touching part of his story is that the books were not stolen to get money by selling them — it transpired that they were not stolen even to be read; the thief (thief is almost too strong a word) had not opened even one of them.

Do not jump immediately to the conclusion that the man was mad. I have never stolen a book, but I cannot pick up any new book without sniffing it and stroking it, irrespective of its content; hardly as crazy as the house-full man, but distinctly odd. Anthony Powell called one of his novels *Books Do Furnish A Room*: a wicked jab at those who hardly ever open one.

But books, alas, are stolen for a variety of reasons; one of these reasons, however, is a very sad one. There are people who steal books for money. And as I write those words, I feel a shudder, and I think you do too. No names please, but an Oxford don, not long ago, stole virtually a library of rare books. The books were far from the wicked don's own world,

for he lectured on Baroque music, but stole from the mathematics shelves. And the mathematics in question was no mere child's ten-times-table, but *Principia Mathematica* itself, Newton's theories of motion and gravitation. (And did he see the apple fall? I hope so, just as I hope that Archimedes cried out *Eureka!* and Galileo after all muttered *Eppur si muove*.)

Did he think that Oxford book-robber, that he would never be found out, or did he sweat nightly from the thought that there might be a tap on his shoulder? Some would say he was crazy, considering that what he had stolen was precious and well-known, and moreover that the biggest prize was one of the rarest and best-known books in history and that he was offering it around the town, claiming that it had belonged to his grandfather. Surely, some dark angel was keeping him aloof?

Not a bit of it. The errand don had made a considerable pile long before his collar was fingered; he had bagged 78 books or manuscripts, every one of them a jewel. (Nobody seems to know whether any of the treasures were damaged. If so, a double curse upon him.) The 78 treasures were by no means the only booty; in the end, he admitted charges of theft and deception, and — in the time-worn words — asked for 113 similar offences to be considered. They were duly considered, and he went to prison for two years.

But not before — and I think it will curdle your blood — he gave as a reason for the thieving to pay off his mortgage.

The story doesn't quite stop here. The Newton book had been sold to a London dealer, who sold it to a New York dealer, and it was finally traced to an American collector. No doubt he was sad to see his new prize go back to where it came from, but all's

well that ends well, though actually not all was well, for a dozen of so of the treasures have never been found.

But those tales are mere children's toys compared with what Joseph Bellwood managed. His speciality was cutting out the plates from precious volumes, and if there were prizes for the cutting out of plates from precious volumes, there would be no challenger, because all the challengers would have gone home hours ago.

Bellwood stole 1,149 plates. What they are worth is still being argued but estimates vary from £16,000 to £37,000. When he was on bail he was ordered not to go into any library (what? even my beloved London Library?) — a very sensible order. He gave many confusing statements, culminating with these remarkable words, given by his counsel: "...he does not wish to see a library again after the problems he has experienced". That, you might think, is no ordinary robber; he has none of the obvious thief, and is worlds away from the man who stole the precious Newton. Have we here, I ask, some parallel to the man who filled his entire house with books and almost suffocated?

Again, I draw your attention to the oddness of book-thieves; I bet you anything that Bellwood's haul did not include men's wallets or ladies' handbags. I will go further: I would not be surprised if Bellwood, asked whether he stole jade necklaces, shuddered at the thought, and grew angry at the accusation. He went to prison for four years.

I started this exploration by asking what makes people steal books, when they do not, and would not, steal anything else. But the oddness of books goes further. Perhaps you have never heard the name of Leo Ornston, much less know what he does for a living. Well, he does it in Newcastle upon Tyne, Northumberland, Gateshead and Sunderland — something of a broad remit. He goes

incognito, disguised in shabby clothes and shoes. Disguised? In shabby clothes? Why? Because he has been beaten up, he has had rubbish thrown down at him from a high block of flats, and even been threatened by someone wielding a machete. So what does he do for a living? Is he an undercover policeman? A cat burglar? A beggar? No, he is a gamekeeper, not a poacher. What he does for a living is to go round and get back the overdue library books of the area. Now will you believe that books are different from anything else at all?

But do you see the thread that runs through all these conundrums? People steal books when they do not wish "to see a library again after the problems they have experienced". People steal books and fill their houses with thousands of them, never opening even one. More sonorously, Milton said "As good almost kill a man as kill a book: who kills a man kills a reasonable creature, God's image; but he destroys a good book, kills reason itself, kills the image of God, as it were in the eye". Milton, it is true, did not stop to think about bad books; some say that the bad book will kill itself, or at least the good book must prevail.

It is astonishing to me that there are cultures which have no written form of communication; if I am not mistaken, the Native Americans (oh, no, we must not say "Red Indian" these days, we must say *American Indian*, a flabby version of what was once bright and bold and real) are one example, and another is or was the people whom Peter Shaffer made uncannily real in his play *The Royal Hunt of the Sun*.

It is truly awesome to think that the public library has existed some three thousand years. Were there people who took the scrolls home and didn't bring them back? I fear that when all the public libraries are on computer, something will go terribly wrong. I am sure the Dewey system will be snuffed into oblivion. But does anyone now know what Andrew Carnegie has to do with public libraries? Ah, well, Anthony Powell was right, and for some 1,500 words I have been agreeing with him: yes, books do furnish a room.

Philip Howard



Steiner is wrong, Rushdie is right: the novel will always be new

So the novel is pronounced dead — again. The Death of the Novel has been reported more often than those of Queen Anne, Robin Hood, Dracula and James Bond, and almost as frequently as the deaths of English football and civilisation-as-we-know-it. And yet the old things keep on coming back for more and staggering on somehow.

V.S. Naipaul, that enchanting and enchanted novelist, has not only given up writing novels (alas, Mr Naipaul, but declares that the word "novel" itself makes him ill. Professor George Steiner told the centenary conference of the British Publishers' Association: "Novels will continue to be written for quite a while but, increasingly, the search is on for hybrid forms, what we will call rather crassly fact/fiction. What novel can today quite compete with the best of reportage, with the very best of immediate narrative?" And so in the forthcoming "fiction" issue of *The New Yorker*, Salman Rushdie rides to the defence of the novel, yet again.

That the most stylish mag in the fact/fiction business can devote its main summer issue to the subject (cartoons included, for publishers and writers are egregious cartoon-fodder) shows that there may be life in the old literary genre yet. That writers as brilliant and committed as Steiner and Rushdie can cross laptops over the novel suggests that they think it matters. And the truth is that the market for highbrow fiction of the kind that they both write and that wins the literary awards is small.

New technologies are introducing new media of fiction, as Dennis Potter has just suggested in his frightening farewell to fiction, *Cold Lazarus*. But storytelling is a basic human need as well as pleasure. "Novels" go back long before printing, at least to Alexandria. You could argue that the *Odyssey* is the first novel in Western literature, as well as other things. These first novels were told or chanted around the tribal fire. And the first critics, usually rival novelists, said that they were terrible, and the novel was dead.

Aristophanes called Euripides an "anthologist of clichés", and what was worse, lower-class. Gerard Manley Hopkins wrote of "the overdone reputation of the Evans-Eliot-Lewis-Cross (George Eliot) woman (poor creature one ought not to speak slightly, I know)". Johnson advised us to turn our eyes from Shakespeare's "deformities", and "endure in him what we should in another loathe and despise". *Le Figaro* reviewed *Madame Bovary*: "Monsieur Flaubert is not a writer." *The Times* judged *Jane Eyre* "coarse bookseller's stuff", and reviewed the latest Dickens as "a twaddling manifestation of silliness almost from the first page to the last". *Times* reviewers are incorruptible. Otherwise one might suspect that the review was influenced by Dickens's editorship of *Another Newspaper*.

Dickens was one of those rare masters of fiction, like Shakespeare and Kipling, who could appeal to all classes across the genre barrier. The category of literary fiction for grown-ups is quite recent. But one of the developments of the modern novel is its breaking up into niche markets. Not just detectives and thrillers, but black detectives and gay Bondage substitutes. Not just space-ships and little green men in science fiction, but the dweeb's mists of Avalon fantasy. Note the enduring archetype of Arthur in British fiction.

And styles of fiction come in waves. Gabriel García Márquez exemplified a wave of magic realism with *One Hundred Years of Solitude*, encouraged and provoked by Franco's repression of mainland Spanish fiction. There was a wave in which the prize-winning novels (and plays such as Tom Stoppard's) worked by an interplay between past and present intrigues. Now we are waiting for the new wave.

But come it will. The novel will be novel and re-invent itself. It will come in forms and themes undreamed of in our literary philosophy. Roland Barthes invented structuralism by declaring that the Author is Dead. But thank God we still have Murriel Spark, Julian Barnes, Ian McEwan, oh yes, and Salman Rushdie, and the rest. The old human magic of explaining the world through stories will survive. And one of the great pleasures will still be starting a new novel and being unable to put it down.

Fish quotas

The Spanish football team's preparations for tomorrow's Euro 96 clash with England's born-again supermen can only be described as fishy. In one of the more unusual dietary tactics in the history of sports nutrition, the players are being fed tuna. Every meal.

Some might question the balance of such a diet, but the squad has brought over a father-and-son chef team, Javier and Jon Arbizu, to prepare tinned (Spanish) tuna salad for breakfast, lunch and supper. In the fortnight they have been staying at the Oulton Hall Hotel in Leeds they have gorged themselves on 100 kilos of the stuff. As a special breakfast treat, good boys are allowed a Spanish steak (with their tuna).

"It's a bit excessive," admits Steve Collinson, the hotel's head chef, who has been watching the spectacle. "They use a lot of oil, which would make any other team very fat — but they are obviously used to it and have been doing very well on it."

No such nonsense in the England camp, where the players can eat pretty much what they like from an extensive buffet at Burnham Beeches, their Berkshire hotel. Meat, poultry, a range of fish and soups are on offer. Pasta is the

most popular dish, and the team doctor's special recommendation for those seriously eating to win is a gooey rice pudding.

Train changer

ON WEDNESDAY when transport unions called for Tube strikes, everyone wanted to hear from Steven Norris, the minister responsible for London Transport. But he was on an awayday to Ascot.



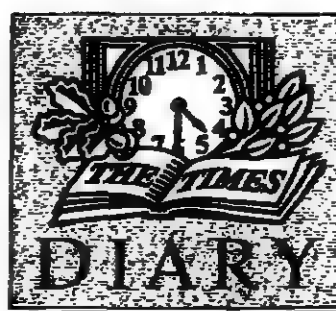
"Ere we go, 'ere we go, 'ere we go"

Norris is a steam train of a minister. He is departing from the political platform at the next election, but is expected to be situated out of the Government in the summer, before he publishes his memoirs. He clearly enjoyed himself at the races. His officials, though, were in more of a lather. I caught up with him at a Westminster drinks party, where he was in cavalier mood. "The only winner I backed was in the first race, but I still lost because I'd backed several other horses too," he said cheerfully. "But I'm going again tomorrow. Horses are a form of transport I haven't quite mastered. My office have been leaving little notes in my red box with tips, such as 'Stay away from Ascot'."

Out of puff

MY CONDOLENCES to Viscount Tonypanad, who has been foiled yet again in his spunky bid to scale Snowdon for the first time — aged 87. The former Secretary of State for Wales, who has never quite made it to the summit, was determined to trundle up today on the 100th birthday of the Snowdon Mountain Railway, but ill-health has let him down. He remains determined and will be there in name: the front carriage has been named "George" after him.

"Mount Snowdon looks high to a Welshman," he tells me, "and I



don't like heights. I would have closed my eyes all the way. But I've rescheduled for later in the year."

Boxing clever

IN THE latest round of the bout between two of our literary heavyweights, blood is spilt. As Philip Howard reports above, George Steiner and Salman Rushdie have been arguing in *The New Yorker* over the future of the novel. In this week's edition, Rushdie defends the novel, in response to Steiner's argument that it is dead. He refers, caustically, to "Professor Steiner" throughout. Now Steiner hits back: "It is a litmus test of vulgarity to use the word 'professor' in the pejorative sense." Seconds out.

Forget Euro 96 and the Lord's Test. The game to watch is the Ken and Eddie show, according to Howard Davies, deputy governor

of the Bank of England. He means Ken Clarke, Chancellor, and Eddie George, the Bank's Governor. "As deputy I get a fabulous ring-side seat," he explains. "What with Ken's slim panatella and Eddie's Rothmans, it is a passive smoker's paradise. You can tell who's been at the meeting simply from the queue outside *Sketchley's* in the morning."

Korma, Norma?

CHAMPAGNE glasses were being raised at a party this week to Peter Golds, Brent councillor and longtime Tory backroom boy, who was appointed OBE in the Birthday Honours "for political service". But his key role was as prime ministerial marriage-broker. For it was Golds, a pal of John Major since boyhood, who met Norma at the Royal Opera House and introduced the couple when John spotted her across a crowded room and asked: "Who's that pretty girl?" Golds won't say if they will all be popping out to celebrate at one of the Brixton curry houses that served them so well in the past.

Choc shock

FOR a minor royal, life is full of potential social gaffes. Lady Helen Taylor, daughter of the Duke of Kent, recalls the etiquette pitfalls of



Lady Helen: soft centre

mixing with European royalty. She arrived recently at a very grand shooting weekend given by Prince Pierre d'Arenberg at his chateau outside Paris. "I arrived with a box of chocolates and nearly died," she tells *Vogue*. "Everywhere I looked there were little dishes of them. I can't remember whether I even presented mine in the end. Other guests brought whacking great coffee-table books on gardening or furniture." What's a girl to do?

P.H.S



THE PRESIDENT'S MEN

Yeltsin at last takes a broom to the Kremlin's stables

Boris Yeltsin's campaign to win re-election has entered its final straight in an atmosphere of high drama. His overnight decision to dismiss a troika of key power-brokers, all men who were considered to be immovable fixtures of his intimate entourage, confirms the ascendancy of his new ally, Aleksandr Lebed. Coming on the heels of the enforced departure of General Pavel Grachev, his Defence Minister, it all but completes the purge of Kremlin hardliners.

Mr Yeltsin's heavy reliance on these men was an important reason why an estimated 40 per cent of those who voted for him in the first round did so only reluctantly. Anti-reformers all, the power they exercised belied the President's public commitments to economic liberalism, or even to democracy.

Oleg Soskovets, the First Deputy Prime Minister, championed the military-industrial complex in the Kremlin and is known to be bitterly hostile to Western economic models. Mikhail Barsukov, the ex-KGB head of the Federal Security Service, is a quintessential product of the secretive Soviet system, out to protect the nomenklatura from any semblance of public accountability. Aleksandr Kozlov, Mr Yeltsin's drinking companion, gatekeeper and unscrupulous fixer at the heart of some of the worst corruption scandals in the Establishment, mesmerised the President almost as Rasputin did the last Romanovs.

Mr Yeltsin's purge will enhance his chances in the run-off, which has been brought forward to July 3. But he did not act first. Intriguingly, they triggered their own downfall by arresting the two image-makers who turned Mr Yeltsin's campaign around. Arkadi Yestayev, his campaign co-ordinator, is the architect of the brilliant television blitz that transformed his ratings; Sergei Lisovsky, the 36-year-old entrepreneur, organised the "Vote or Lose" rock concerts to rally young voters to the President.

The Moscow mulls are alive with rumours that this was a coup ripped in the bud, a picaresque blundered attempt to abort the elections. Mr Kozlov has openly advocated such a step and Mr Soskovets has been at the centre of coup rumours before — in March 1994, after Mr Yeltsin left for an

unannounced vacation. The overnight drama followed rumblings in the military command over General Grachev's dismissal; and it coincided with an "offer" by Gennadi Zyuganov, the Communist candidate, to join a Government of National Trust as Mr Yeltsin's Prime Minister.

The more likely, and more banal, explanation is that this was a piece of Kremlin power-play, a pre-emptive bid by men increasingly sidelined by the newly ascendant reformers to reassert their power. This they had to do before General Lebed — whose anti-corruption crusade directly threatens the interests they stand for — had time to get his feet solidly under the table of Mr Yeltsin's Security Council.

The manoeuvre backfired humiliatingly. By dawn, General Lebed had secured the men's release and gone on television growling that "those who want to throw the country into the abyss of bloody chaos deserve no mercy". Although he wisely cancelled his attendance at next week's G7 summit in Lyons, Mr Yeltsin was otherwise careful not to feed the rumour mills with any hint of revolt. The Kremlin trio were dismissed, but not arrested; and his only explanation was the Delphic comment that they had been "taking too much out and giving back too little".

This was politics. Mr Yeltsin has campaigned as the "stability candidate". There was no mileage in giving Mr Zyuganov an opportunity to dwell on murky goings-on in the Kremlin. The affair has been officially declared over almost before it became common knowledge. But the result is no less dramatic for being played down. Mr Yeltsin, so often indecisive, has broken the last links with reaction. If he wins, it will now be at the head of a new and much more solidly reformist team. The choice is now crystalline — and that should encourage the high turn-out that Mr Yeltsin needs to win. The battle to modernise Russia may only then enter its decisive phase: this campaign has revealed entrenched opposition throughout the governing machine and diehards hold the balance in the Russian Parliament. But for the West and above all for Russia itself, the skies have lightened this week in the East.

BEST FOR BEEF

An uncertain deal but a realistic one

The European Commission's plan for a progressive lifting of the beef ban is probably the best that John Major could have expected. At the same time, it involves measures that ministers until now have opposed. The Prime Minister has to make a fine calculation. Would continuing the policy of non-cooperation achieve anything better for Britain's farmers — or, indeed, anything better for himself?

The temptation is to hold out for more. In 1984 Margaret Thatcher held out to the consternation of many of her colleagues, against various offers of a rebate on Britain's contributions to the EC — and won more. But Mr Major's position is rather different from hers. First, the beef crisis was Britain's fault in the first place: this country's case against its partners is not half as strong as it was in the budget argument. Secondly, every week that passes before the bans are lifted causes pain and lost jobs in the beef industry. Mrs Thatcher had the luxury of five years over which to make a stand.

A better deal would, in any case, be unlikely to be offered. Mr Major may think that he has domestic political difficulties in getting this agreement through Parliament. He does. But so do other European countries, notably France and Germany. The more conciliatory such a package is to Britain, the harder it will be to sell to the parliaments of other member states.

Germany in particular has a problem. As a country it is the most obsessed with food hygiene. And health is a matter for the Länder, most of which are now run by the opposition Social Democrats, who are even

more consumer-orientated than the governing Christian Democrats. Helmut Kohl will be politically bound to put any deal agreed at Florence to the *Bundesrat*, where the Social Democrats dominate. If he does not do so, individual Länder may refuse to lift their bans, necessitating long and arduous recourse to the European Court of Justice.

The other EU member states were determined to ensure that Britain would not be seen to benefit from its non-cooperation or, in their eyes, blackmail. Has it benefited? It is impossible with certainty to say. Mr Major claimed in the Commons yesterday that, for the first eight weeks after the ban was put in place, no solution was forthcoming from the EU. In the four weeks since non-cooperation began, a complete deal has been offered. The policy has certainly served to concentrate minds. But it was always going to be weakened by the ground on which Britain was fighting.

From now on, however, this country will have a stronger case. Even if the Commission's experts agree that Britain has met all the conditions for each stage of the ban's lifting, it cannot force member states to relax the ban. If Britain meets its side of the bargain, and other states renege, Mr Major should threaten to resume non-cooperation. He would be fully justified in that.

In the meantime, those sceptics who were cheered by the Prime Minister's sudden discovery of a backbone a month ago may now feel let down. That would be understandable; but they have to be realistic. The beef deal on the table now is the best that this country is likely to win.

RED FACES IN ROME

Rotten play deserves rotten fruit

Romans on their return from foreign expeditions could once hope to have their laurel on their brows and palms at their feet. The Latin warriors who slunk back to the Eternal City yesterday were readying themselves for a very different vegetable tribute. From Apulia to the Alps the Italian people are preparing to pelt their football team with ripe *pomodoro*.

Humiliation by tomato may not be to Anglo-Saxon tastes. But there is much that is attractive in the Italian fondness for flinging fruit at failures or — if in the civilised surroundings of the opera house — blowing raspberries. Public expressions of rapture, or contempt, inspire superior performances. And a transparent venting of anger, like the opening of a window, allows the fêd air of failure to go more quickly.

Humiliation has worked before for Italy's footballing flops. On the last occasion that they played in a major tournament in England, the 1966 World Cup, they were sent home in ignominy after losing to North Korea. On arrival back in Italy they were met with an avalanche of angiosperms. After brushing off the red mark of shame they went on to raise their beautiful game. Four years later, in Mexico, the Italians reached the final — where victory was reached by no less than Brazil.

There is an impeccable classical pedigree for the Mediterranean mauling that Italy's footballers might expect. Odysseus returning to Ithaca after 20 years away was greeted by his wife Penelope's suitors with a torrent of food, including an ox's hoof — perhaps taken from the ancestor of an Italian defender. Bread and circuses kept the Roman plebs in line but many of the plebs flung their bread into the circus rings to show their displeasure when an uppity Christian got one over the lion.

Bread might have bounced off the Christians in the Colosseum but tomatoes now — whether pip-slippery ripe or oil-drenched and sun-dried — could do permanent damage to more than just the pride of the ejected eleven. Italy's footballers are wealthier even than its former Foreign Ministers: putting one past back fours has been a better route to wealth than pocketing back-handers. As a result, the national team is better dressed than a River Café rocker salad. The Armani-wearing players would be well advised to put on something plainer in public if their suits are not to look like a basket of *bruschetta*. Hair shirts or sackcloth might do. A period of penitence after pelting might see the Italians resume their place — as the most mouthwatering team in soccer's smorgasbord.

Time to decide for Britain in Europe

From Sir Roy Denman

Sir, The beef war has increased pressure in the press for a referendum on Europe. The opinion polls show that a substantial majority of the British people is against leaving the European Union, but even more oppose a single currency and political union.

The trouble is that what the British people seem to want is no longer on offer. In 18 months an inner core round France and Germany will decide to move to a single currency. Closer political integration within the inner core will inevitably follow.

The only hope of Britain joining in would be the election of Mr Blair. But with his party split, the press on this issue mostly rabidly against, and many other pressing problems, I do not see Mr Blair tackling this issue in his first term.

So, with one or two possible exceptions, our partners will move ahead, either as full or associate members of an economic and monetary union, glad to be rid of a quarrelsome and obstructionist partner.

Britain may be asked to leave the Union. More likely would be a new treaty which will leave us aside. But whatever the legal route chosen, Britain cannot stop the integration of continental Europe, which has been under way for 46 years.

What we might be able to negotiate is some form of association, perhaps a European Economic Area-type arrangement which provides mutually, as with Norway, for industrial free trade. This would have some weighty disadvantages, which have been pointed out in your columns.

But short of cutting loose completely, this is the only real alternative to joining wholeheartedly in the process of further European integration. It is time that the reality of this choice was made clear to the British people. There is now no middle course.

Yours faithfully,
ROY DENMAN,
194b Br 15,
Avenue de Tervuren, Brussels 1150.
June 20.

From Sir William Nicol

Sir, The members of the UK Committee of the European Research Group cannot have it both ways.

They advocate (letter, June 15) the blockade of treaty change unless Britain has "reclaimed [regained?] control of policies which are of essentially domestic concern, including agriculture". However, in the report which the group published last year (*A Europe of Nations*) they declared that "the common market shall extend to agriculture and trade in agricultural products".

Agriculture cannot be both an essentially domestic concern and a component of the common market. In fact there would have been no European Economic Community without a common agricultural policy — the first common policy to be prescribed in the EEC treaty and one of the two which made up the core of the Community.

Yours faithfully,
W. NICOLL,
Outback,
Nackington Road,
Canterbury, Kent.
June 15.

From Mr Daljit Sehba

Sir, Bill Cash is wrong in scornfully dismissing Jacques Santer as "no more than an unelected bureaucratic official" (report, June 10).

He was appointed to run the administration of the European Union by the elected heads of government of all the member countries, and was Britain's preferred choice.

Moreover, his appointment was approved by directly elected members of the European Parliament. What better credentials could one have to speak on matters that affect the European Union?

Let us hope that incantations words and actions by some British politicians do not freeze Britain out of the European Union, which cannot be in the long-term interest of this country or of Europe.

Yours faithfully,
DALJIT SEHBA,
Reform Club, Pall Mall, SW1.
June 11.

From Mr Anthony White

Sir, "Make no mistake," says Kenneth Clarke (report, June 13), "those who would challenge the ... Treaty of Maastricht would put [our] influence at risk."

Are we to understand that he has, at last, read it?

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY WHITE,
170 Albion Road, N16.
June 13.

Stone me!

From Mr Jonnie Hok

Sir, Your correspondent, Joe Joseph, writing of the feel-good factor today (following England's 4-1 win over Holland on the football field) suggests that we have turned overnight from a David into a Goliath.

Oh dear, well, we'd better enjoy it while it lasts.

Yours faithfully,
JONNIE HOK,
Middle Old Park,
Near Farnham, Surrey.
June 20.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Moscow queues and delays for visas

From the Minister of State,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Sir, Mr Edward Taylor complains (letter, June 18) about the standard of the visa-issuing services at our embassy in Moscow. I note that the experience he relates took place last year.

Moscow is now our largest visa-issuing post in the world. The demand for visas has risen by an average of 25 per cent over the last three years to the present demand of 95,000. This has placed great strains on our ability to provide the space and staffing levels necessary.

I have taken a personal interest in this matter. I visited Moscow last December and approved plans to enlarge and improve the old premises at a cost of £700,000. The renovated offices opened on May 13 and provide additional waiting space and new counter positions for an additional eight visa officers, making a total of 17.

June and July are the busiest months of the year for our Moscow visa operation, and unfortunately applicants do have to queue. But we simply cannot accommodate the 500 to 600 applicants a day inside the existing embassy compound.

We are doing everything we can to encourage genuine Russian visitors to come to this country, and we will continue to do so. We are building a brand-new embassy in Moscow which, when complete, should end queues on the street.

Yours sincerely,
JEREMY HANLEY,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office,
Whitehall, SW1.
June 18.

From Mr David L. Maklouf

Sir, As someone who worked until a year ago in Moscow I regarded the embassy officials as providing an excellent and efficient visa service for Russian citizens, despite their cramped quarters.

Any delay was usually due to the UK sponsors failing to provide Russians with a letter of invitation mentioning the length of the visit, its purpose, how it was to be financed and

the relationship of the sponsor to the applicant.

Once this information had been provided and the applicant's intention to return verified, a visa could be processed and issued within 24 hours. This is much quicker than for UK citizens applying for routine Russian visas in London and Edinburgh.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID L. MAKLOUF,
50 Kenway Road, SW3.
June 18.

From Mr Michael Lambe

Sir, My adopted godson, who lives in Siberia, travelled to Moscow (three days in the train) more than a week ago to apply for a visa to come to Britain in August.

He telephoned to say there was a queue of some 700 Russians outside our embassy and that the staff were issuing only a hundred visas a day. Since he had nowhere to stay in Moscow he was obliged to go home again.

Yours faithfully,
M. LAMBE,
1 Styles Close, Marsh Gibbon,
Bicester, Oxfordshire.
June 19.

From Canon Jim Richardson

Sir, Moscow is not the only place where it is hard to obtain a British visa.

I invited a Turkish friend to England for a short holiday and to see some football. His visa should have been straightforward. However, he had to travel twice from his home in the south of the country to Istanbul, where he was subjected to long interrogations (one interview lasted three hours) and left drained and humiliated.

Even now no decision has been reached regarding his visa, which has angered both of us and ruined a holiday.

Yours sincerely,
JIM RICHARDSON,
The Rectory,
Great Brington, Northampton.
June 19.

Belgian bureaucracy

From Mr Alexander Trotter

Sir, Mrs Enid Wilson's incarceration by the Belgian authorities after she arrived in Brussels without a passport (reports, June 19, 20) is by no means exceptional. However, the policy is not applied exclusively to British subjects, nor is it, as she supposes, the result of our own Government's recent absurd "diplomatic offensive" on the Continent.

In February my fiancée, a French citizen, travelling from London to Brussels for the weekend and armed with her French consular identity card, but no passport, suffered a similar fate. Despite the intervention of both the French consulate and a Belgian barrister colleague, she also spent the night in the cells and was escorted on to the train the next morning.

The explanation given for the in-

ability to permit any discretion in the application of the immigration rules was the UK's decision not to join the Schengen agreement. Our request to actually see the rules governing immigration procedure was refused.

The underlying reason is that Belgium is a country that seems to delight in bureaucracy, where for example it is an offence not to display one's name next to one's doorbell and local police are to be seen actively doorbell-checking, and where identity cards must be carried at all times.

Thus the very idea that someone should travel without proper proof of identity or indeed that another country should allow its citizens not to carry identity cards is bound to infuriate those in authority, as it seems to have done in the case of Mrs Wilson.

Yours faithfully,
ALEXANDER TROTTER,
69 Rue de l'Acqueduc, Brussels 1050.
June 20.

Choir protest

From Miss Emma Sheppard

Sir, Your report (June 18) on the abandonment of the all-male choir of Exeter College, Oxford, does not refer to the Junior Common Room's recent unanimous vote (with two abstentions) in favour of retaining the choir unchanged.

We welcome the idea of a mixed chapel choir running alongside the present one. Indeed, Exeter already has one that sings the office of Compline. The governing body state that they do not wish to alter their commitment to the choral tradition, and quoted in their press release the Archbishop's report on music and liturgy. This emphasises that

girls should not be thought of as a substitute for boy choristers ... Opportunities for girls must therefore be provided in addition to those which exist for boys ... the gender bias in church choirs should be resolved in a way that is consonant with the preservation of the established tradition.

If it is the intention of the governing body to draw more students into the chapel, perhaps it should take into account the views of its undergraduates and of the Archbishops' commission on church music.

Yours sincerely,
EMMA SHEPPARD,
Exeter College, Oxford.
June 17.

RSPCA membership

From the Chairman of Council,
RSPCA

Sir, We are extremely concerned by your report (June 19) that up to 3,000 supporters of the British Field Sports Society may have infiltrated the RSPCA in an attempt to halt the charity's 20-year campaign against fox and deer hunting.

Our opposition to hunting reflects our belief that it involves the infliction of unnecessary suffering and that, as a charity established to prevent cruelty to animals, it would be absurd if we did not oppose it.

What is more, most of the British public support our view. An RSPCA poll on hunting, carried out by MORI, revealed that 73 per cent of the 2,000 adults questioned in May 1996

thought blood sports should be outlawed. These findings make the charge by the Vice-Chairman of the British Field Sports Society, Lord Mancroft, that the RSPCA is dominated by extremists, ring very hollow indeed.

We would urge all those who care about the welfare of animals to join the RSPCA to ensure that its policies remain a true reflection of public opinion. Hunting is only supported by a tiny proportion of the British public.

Yours faithfully,
RONALD F. KIRKBY,
Chairman of Council, RSPCA,
Causeway, Horsham, West Sussex.
June 19.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

Why conferences avoid the capital

From Mr John Studd

Sir, For the second time this year I am part of a scientific committee about to choose a venue for a major international medical meeting. Congresses of this kind can attract attendances of up to 10,000 delegates, so their importance in academic, financial and tourism terms is enormous. The failure of London to be able to host such high-profile meetings is a continuing embarrassment.

Most major countries in Europe, Asia and the Americas have magnificent conference facilities while London is unable to offer anything suitable. The Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre is too small and not even the Barbican is able to cope with a conference size of more than 4,000 people.

The Birmingham facilities, with the NEC near the airport and the International Conference Centre with the Symphony Hall in town, are about the best in Europe. I greatly appreciate the beauty of Warwickshire but the city is, to the outsider, unfairly stigmatised by its industrial past.

In spite of this Birmingham is a great success as a venue for conferences which bring much revenue to the Midlands. The big congresses are considered to be so lucrative that municipalities or local branches of organisations are willing to put up as much as £100,000 to secure them. They are clearly worth the money.

It is important that our capital city, with the best theatre and music in the world available to discerning visitors, must be given the opportunity to bid for these prestigious scientific or business meetings. We must not be left out any longer.

Is it too much to hope that a government with some foresight, the National Lottery or some of the millennium millions can support this much needed venture?

Yours sincerely,
JOHN STUDD,
(Consultant gynaecologist),
Chelsea & Westminster Hospital,
369 Fulham Road, SW10.
June 20.

Pipes downed

From Lord Menuhin

Sir, That the humourless Hampstead Magistrates' Court (report, June 18) should, at a time when one's ears are assailed by the distorted squeals of "piped" music seemingly in every shop, plane or public place, seek to stifle the genuine pipe music of Mr David Brooks's pibroch, whether it be assessed as a summons to battle (vide the terrifying clarinets of the Turkish Janissaries) or the musical expression of the native Scot carrying his haunting sounds across the perfect acoustics of Hampstead Heath, is a curious paradox.

As most objections are based on fear, could it be that the Corporation of London was afraid of the rabble-rousing propensities of *Charlie is my Darling* or *The Campbells are Coming*? Shame upon them and their petty ways and the best of luck to Mr Brooks, from an outraged colleague.

Yours sincerely,
YEHUDI MENUHIN,
Sym Music Company Ltd,
PO Box 6160, London SW1W 0XJ.
June 19.

From Mr Peter Cuming

Sir, As one who resides within earshot of Hampstead Heath noises I would be dismayed if "our piper" were to be driven away. The solution is not to persecute him but to license him and pay him.

More musically challenging are the itinerant bongo drummer, Bank Holiday licensed fairs, the "Compass band" at the Parliament Hill bandstand, and the music of transistor radios played by the Corporation of London's own swimming-pool staff.

Yours faithfully,
PETER CUMING,
34 Saverne Road, NW3.
June 18.

Modern manners

From Mr Peter Wilkinson

Sir, Courtesy can be confusing as well as chastening (letter, June 18; see also letters, June 14). A bus journey some years ago gave a severe dent to my dignity as a first-year postgraduate when the driver assumed I needed a half-fare. Humiliation changed to bewilderment when I reached the back of the bus, where I was offered a seat by a polite schoolgirl.

Perhaps I can at least claim a record for progress from the second to the sixth age of man.

Yours faithfully,
PETER WILKINSON,
Holly House, West Ashling,
Near Chichester, West Sussex.
June 18.

Sinking feeling

From Mr A. R. Grimes

Sir, Three weeks of glorious sunshine: the going good to firm at Royal Ascot: the first article on subsidence cannot be far away.

Yours faithfully,
A. ROWLAND GRIMES,
Hoath Cottage,
Carpenter's Lane,
Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent.
June 18.

OBITUARIES

VIVIAN ELLIS

Vivian Ellis, CBE, songwriter and composer, died on June 19 aged 91. He was born in Hampstead on October 29, 1904.

THERE was usually a sparkle about Vivian Ellis. It was there in his best songs which became standards, numbers such as *This is My Lovely Day*, *Ma Belle Marguerite* and, most famous of all, *Spread a Little Happiness*. The sparkle remained in his eyes as he entered his late eighties and it became especially bright when, from time to time, he was "rediscovered".

It happened first in 1983 when the King's Head revived *Mr Cinders*. It had been Ellis's first big hit at the Adelphi in 1929 with Bobby Howes and Binnie Hale. At Islington Dennis Lawson, fresh from triumph in that rather different musical *Pal Joey*, took the title role with much success and brought considerable charm to the show's best-known number, *Spread a Little Happiness*. Only a year earlier it had been given some prominence in a recording by Sing. Ellis knew little about present-day pop music, but he did have the presence to put a spare die in his pocket when he invited Sing for lunch at his club, the Garrick. Sing duly arrived riding a motorbike and

In 1985 the Northcott Theatre in Exeter, which at the time had established a reputation for reviving British musicals, disinterred *Bless the Bride*, which in 1947 had introduced Georges Guétary to the London public and provided a star role for Lizabeth Webb.

At Exeter Jan Hartley was a winning Lucy, the girl who elopes to Paris with her French lover during the Franco-Prussian War. She played it again at Sadler's Wells two years later but, alas, in a much cruder production. In early 1992 Ellis, with more than 60 years in showbusiness behind him, was celebrated in an evening at the tiny King's Head Theatre in Islington. Sheridan Morley commented the show and the tiny cast showed how well his songs had lived over the years. The audience was very ready to join in, too.

Vivian Ellis's background was thoroughly musical. His grandmother was a pianist, who occasionally played for Sir Arthur Sullivan, and a modest composer. His mother was a violinist



and Vivian himself won a music scholarship to Cheltenham College. He went to the Royal Academy of Music and had hopes of becoming a concert pianist, at one time studying under Myra Hess. But he was forced to spend a brief and unhappy period in the family business. That he left abruptly, working first as a song plugger and then going into the books of Chappell's as a song writer.

After the success of *Mr Cinders* Ellis wrote for many of the British musical comedy stars of the 1930s, including Jack Hulbert who notched up a quarter of a million sales with his record of

Ellis's song *The Flies Crawl Up The Window*. Another Hulbert-Ellis success both on stage and screen (with Hulbert's wife, Cicely Courtneidge) was *Under Your Hat*. The dance orchestras of the day had every reason to be grateful to Ellis for his facility in turning out melodic, singable numbers. Billy Ternent's band was one with which he was particularly associated.

His music and lyrics both had a very British sound to them and it was usually reckoned that they would not export. But in the late 1930s Ellis made a brief visit to Hollywood, with the

intention of writing for Deanna Durbin. Those aspirations were cut short by the war.

He returned to serve in the RNVR, reaching the rank of lieutenant-commander, but reckoned that many of his duties were far less arduous than the average Cicely Courtneidge rehearsal. When the theatre began to get back to normal, Ellis found difficulty in re-establishing himself in a changing West End. Then in 1946 he came across the ideal collaborator for whom he had been searching during the 1930s. His name was A. P. Herbert. The two men put together a series of musicals which immediately appealed to the postwar thirst for gentle, literate entertainment, beginning with *Big Ben* (1946).

C. B. Cochrane produced some of them, generally at the Adelphi. Ellis was apt to claim that the post-Cochrane *Water Gypsies* (Winter Garden, 1955) was his best score — Peter Graves starred, Dora Bryan and Jerry Verno provided the comedy. But his most successful musical for Cochrane was undoubtedly *Bless the Bride*, which had a run of 880 performances. He never wrote a more romantic number than *Ma Belle Marguerite*, which Guétary made famous before he reached international audiences in *An American in Paris*.

Cochrane, Herbert and Ellis dug in their collective heels against the new flow of American musicals which was beginning to engulf the West End. Their shows were very British, a bit sentimental and possibly a bit refined for the taste of the emerging generation. When first Cochrane and then Alan Herbert died Vivian Ellis felt that an era and a style had passed. He had published an autobiography, *I'm on a See-Saw*, which has much to say about Cochrane, together with a number of novels. In 1983 he became President of the Performing Right Society. The following year he was appointed CBE.

He began making jokes about the obituary columns and which of his own numbers he wanted played at his cremation — he usually chose the jolliest. That was until the next "rediscovery" of Vivian Ellis came along.

Vivian Ellis was unmarried. He is survived by his sister, with whom he had lived for many years.

SIR MAITLAND MACKIE

Sir Maitland Mackie, CBE, farmer, died on June 18, aged 84. He was born on February 16, 1912.



MAITLAND MACKIE devoted his considerable political gifts to the North East of Scotland and was influential in two of its chief industries, agriculture and oil. An innovative farmer and a key figure in establishing Aberdeen as the centre for Britain's North Sea oil industry, he was a man of great presence and good humour. But he could also be stubborn and stood out, at some cost to his political career, against the politicisation of local government.

Maitland Mackie was born on the family farm at North Ythie, Tarves. He was named after his father, whose memory is still honoured in Aberdeenshire. The young Maitland, universally called "Mike" to distinguish him from his parent, followed his father in almost everything, except politics. Both were leaders in farming and the wider community; but, whereas Maitland père had been a Conservative, his son was a Liberal.

Mackie was educated at Aberdeen Grammar School and Aberdeen University where he took a BSc in agriculture in 1933. He served his apprenticeship as a grazier with his father at Thomastown, Huntly, before farming in his own right at Westertown, Rothiemoran, from 1935.

He was the first in the area to use the combine harvester, cranes, silage, and keep dairy cows in loose housing; and, as he went from door to door in Huntly and Aberdeen, the first dairyman in the district to use bottles rather than the large cans trundled round on the roundsman's horse-drawn cart. He sold the dairy business in the 1960s but his son, Maitland Jr, later revived the family's interest in this activity and, although he too eventually sold out, the Mackie name lives on in the labels of an ice-cream still on sale in many supermarkets.

From 1965 to 1982 Mackie chaired the Aberdeen and District Milk Marketing Board and became influential on the UK board. He was one of those who successfully argued that Charolais cattle should be imported. Their cross-bred progeny later gave improved size, yield and profit on his own farm as on many others.

Politically, his heyday was in the old days before party labels were used in local government. He was elected a member of Aberdeenshire County Council in 1951, serving 15 years as chairman of the education committee before becoming convener. He led the council until the reform of local government swept it away in 1975.

Many hoped he would become convener of Grampian Region. But he refused to take the party ticket, as now required, because he was convinced that local politics should be non-partisan; he stood as an independent but was not elected.

National politics beckoned but faintly. In 1951 he stood as a Liberal for West Aberdeenshire. In 1958, after Robert Boothby's elevation to the peerage and in the year of the Liberal revival at Torrington, he contested Aberdeenshire East but came third. What interest he had in Westminster was thereafter vicarious. His younger brother, Lord Mackie of Benshie, having briefly been a Liberal MP, is now a Liberal spokesman in the House of Lords, while his older brother, the late Lord John Mackie, was Labour MP for Enfield East, 1959-74, and a former junior Agriculture Minister, 1964-70.

It was as the first chairman of the North East of Scotland Development Board, from 1969 to 1975, that Maitland Mackie left his chief legacy to his own area. It is generally believed that the US-dominated offshore industry might not have chosen Aberdeen as its North Sea service centre had it not been for his efforts. Dundee was among Aberdeen's rivals.

Mackie led a large delegation to Houston, Texas, the offshore industry's capital. In

Aberdeen he used his powerful local connections as a facilitator and, with his second wife, herself a Texan, hosted now legendary parties for the oil barons at his home. The city, its satellites and burgeoning dormitories have enjoyed more than two decades of almost unbroken prosperity, and Grampian is now one of the wealthiest regions in the United Kingdom.

Mackie, who was appointed CBE in 1965 and knighted in 1982, was Lord-Lieutenant of Aberdeenshire from 1975 to 1987. His duties were unusually onerous as his "patch" included Balmoral. He was somewhat bemused by the spurs and other accoutrements of his position. Once he did lose his spurs and thereafter asked police to follow him around to make sure it did not happen again and to "pick up anything else that might fall off". Scouting was among his lifelong interests: he was a Queen Scout, a Scoutmaster, and from 1940 to 1965 an Assistant Commissioner for Boy Scouts.

He made no secret of his liking for a dram. He would say that drink was good for you in moderation — as long as there was not too much moderation. He liked to assert that he had single-handedly liberalised Scotland's licensing laws — because he was the only member of the Claydon Committee (1971-73) who knew anything about the subject.

Such shafts were typical of his humour, which delighted in ironic self-deprecation. Many of his favourite anecdotes appear in his autobiography, *Lucky Charm*, written in collaboration with Charles Allan (1992). The title reflected the optimism with which he confronted life and all its problems.

In 1935 he married Isabella Milne Ross, teacher at the local school in Daviot, who died in 1960. They had two sons and four daughters. In 1963 he married Pauline Turner, a cattle-rancher whom he had met on a cattle-buying trip to Texas. She died three years ago. Sir Maitland thus had the distinction of celebrating two silver weddings. He was also patriarch of a remarkable extended family. He is survived not only by his six children but by no fewer than 203 direct descendants of his grandfather, including 165 who attended a "clan gathering" at Westertown last year.

DR GILLIAN HANSON

Dr Gillian Hanson, consultant physician, died from pneumococcal pneumonia on May 23 aged 62. She was born on March 25, 1934.

GILLIAN HANSON was a physician, a pioneer of intensive care medicine, a lecturer and a writer. She was a woman of exceptional physical energy. As a consultant at Whips Cross Hospital east London her day often began with an early morning swim in the Thames and a bicycle ride to work, and ended with a telephone call in the early hours about a sick patient. She never flagged.

Gillian Coysh Hanson was educated at Kingsley Girls School, Leamington, and received her medical training at the Royal Free Hospital and Medical School, qualifying in 1957. She married a publisher, Roger Farrand, during her first house officer post. It was unusually early on for a doctor of her generation to marry, and this may not have endeared her to the Royal Free



medical establishment of the day. She left the Royal Free and in the early 1960s joined the staff of Whips Cross, devoting the whole of her future medical career to the people of the East End of London. She never deserted

them despite many attempts to entice her elsewhere, including the offer of a professorial chair.

As medical registrar at Whips Cross she was appointed to undertake research on hyperbaric oxygen treatment of tetanus and gas gangrene. As a result, she became familiar with the problems of lung and kidney failure and management of the acutely ill patient in general. She saw the need for the establishment of Intensive Therapy Units (or ITUs) for such patients at an early stage and when the hospital decided to commission such a unit, in the mid-1960s, she was clearly the ideal person to become its first head.

There were three unusual features about the appointment — she was young (the youngest consultant in London when appointed), she was female and she was a physician rather than an anaesthetist. The need for mechanical ventilation of many ITU patients had hitherto dictated the appointment of

anaesthetists to head intensive care units.

For more than two decades since their establishment, uneasy turf battles have been fought between physicians and anaesthetists over who should head ITUs. What is really required is an outstanding, broadly-trained clinician who understands the technicalities and commands the respect of colleagues whose patients require intensive therapy. Gillian Hanson had these qualities and in large measure was responsible for the recent emergence of the specialty of intensive care medicine in Britain as a distinct entity. This followed protracted discussions between the Royal College of Physicians and Faculty of Anaesthetists of the Royal College of Surgeons. She was elected an honorary fellow of the latter body.

Over the years, the Whips Cross intensive care unit became world-famous for excellence and a stream of visitors came to observe Hanson's methods and to learn. She taught, lectured internationally and published textbooks on intensive care medicine, parenteral nutrition (nutrition administered by vein), the elderly pregnant woman and resuscitation. Later, at Whips Cross, she undertook more work in diabetes and obstetric medicine.

Gill Hanson was a direct woman, a kind friend and a devoted wife and mother. She loved the arts, particularly opera. Widely admired and respected throughout the medical profession as she was, she received no official recognition in the form of honours. This was a remarkable oversight, but one on which she herself never dwelt. She died after contracting pneumococcal pneumonia following a walking tour with her husband in the Himalayas.

She is survived by her husband, a daughter, who is also a doctor, and two sons.

John Posford, marine engineer, died on June 8 aged 81. He was born on September 3, 1914.



JOHN POSFORD was a founding partner of a company of consulting engineers now named Posford Duvivier. One of the most interesting parts of his career was the role he played during the Second World War when, as a graduate of King's College, Cambridge, recently appointed a Fellow of the Institution of Civil Engineers, he was responsible for the wartime construction and installation of the massive coastal fort "Churchill" — located in the Thames, the Mersey and off the Essex coast.

In February 1942 the first of these pioneering structures, the 4,500-ton Fort Roughs, was suddenly and secretly dropped on the seabed seven miles off Felixstowe. One hundred men of the Royal Navy and Royal Marines manned the two-legged tower. It was one of four naval forts built at Gravesend and set up in or near the Thames Estuary, mainly with the intention of breaking up German aircraft formations heading for London, Midlands and East Anglian targets. It was also hoped that sneak raiders carrying magnetic mines to the allied shipping lanes would be beaten off.

The success of the installation of these forts depended in large part on fine calculations made by Posford. Built in dry docks, they were floated out, towed and sunk in position onto the unprepared seabed. It was a precarious operation. There was the possibility of the fort toppling sideways, ditching servicemen as well as dockyard volunteers into the freezing sea. And besides the precious human cargo there were guns, ammunition and radar equipment at risk.

Most of the forts — designed only to last five years — survive in various stages of dereliction. A few are even regarded as habitable by people not minding isolation, steel walls and constant wind. Long after their operations

against Hitler's forces had ended, some became bases for pirate radio stations and one exists as "Sealand," a self-proclaimed principality.

When the war was over Posford joined a consulting engineering partnership which was involved in the reconstruction of Britain's industry. But it was only when the firm split in 1955 and Posford became a senior partner of Posford, Pavry and Partners, that he began to establish his reputation in maritime and port engineering. As a result of his sea fort work he designed two movable offshore platforms for the National Coal Board in 1957 to 1961 to investigate the subsea coal seams off the Durham coast and in the Firth of Forth.

Under his guidance his firm was also appointed to undertake maritime projects in Australia, Libya and Malaysia, while in Britain Posford was appointed consulting engineer to the Felixstowe Dock and Railway Company. He was responsible for the engineering development and for the ongoing success of this port from 1955 until his retirement in 1986.

Posford's first wife, Nell, died in 1966. He married for a second time in 1970. He is survived by his wife Jean and by five children from his first marriage and two from his second.

M. Mulac — "They are heroes." (Loud cheers.)

M. Clemenceau — "Yes, they are heroes. It was night. The attacks continued. There happened what was bound to happen. The soldiers, who had fired in the air, continued to be the target of the rioters. Some of them fell, and their comrades replied in individual cases with shots fired upon the rioters. There were a number of wounded and one killed. But that figure I give you with due reserve, for the telephone is working badly and the telegraph wires have been cut by the insurgents. While I was talking to-night with the sub-prefect the conversation was suddenly interrupted because the rioters had cut down a telegraph pole. The news I bring you may be rectified, therefore, to-morrow. The latest news is that only one person was killed, a M. Ramond, who was in a bar. His daughter, seated by him, was wounded by the same bullet. Fifteen or more rioters were hurt, but among the soldiers a much larger number were injured, some of them, no doubt, mortally.

"For the moment that is all I can tell you. The papers may give other information that is inaccurate, but I personally have no further facts. The prefect, the sub-prefect, the central commissioner affirm that it is impossible for them at present to venture out."

PERSONAL COLUMN

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THE CRISIS IN THE SOUTH OF FRANCE.

(From Our Own Correspondent)

Paris, June 20

The morning rumours were current in Paris this week, and in the lobbies of the Chamber before the afternoon sitting it was reported that some 150 persons had been killed during the rioting of the night. In this general state of anxious tension it was impossible for the Prime Minister to postpone until to-morrow his explanations as to the events of the last 24 hours. He was hard pressed to tell the House the facts by M. Ailly, the Socialist Deputy of Narbonne, and the Conservative Republicans were no less insistent.

"The legal action contemplated has been carried out," said M. Clemenceau substantially, "in all but one case, that of M. Marcelin Albert, and those judicial mandates have been executed without undue violence. Up to 7.30 last evening the city of Narbonne was calm. At that hour a band moved upon the sub-prefecture to attack it. At the same hour a similar demonstration took place before the Montpellier Palais de Justice. Stones were thrown, the doors were soaked with kerosene oil and set on fire. Can you expect the Government not to protect the public buildings?"

ON THIS DAY

June 21, 1907

The crisis began in May when wine growers rioted in Perpignan in protest at high taxation and overproduction of wine. In Narbonne there were deaths when troops fired on the crowds.

I regarded it as my duty to defend them, and I shall continue to defend them so long as I am Prime Minister. How did the agents of the Government undertake that defence? I will read you the instructions given to the troops over my own signature. First, use at the outset and by preference the cavalry, but only after the regulation summons and the signal by drum; secondly, the Infantry must defend itself with the bayonet, but only after the regulation summons and the signal by drum; thirdly, the rifles to be loaded only at the last extremity, and the firing is to be in the air, the greatest possible patience to be exercised. (Cheers.)

ARTS 35-37

The designs that did not hit the V&A jackpot



EDUCATION 39

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THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

FRIDAY JUNE 21 1996

Scottish Power bid scuppers Southern rival

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

SCOTTISHPOWER is set to clinch the battle for Southern Water after a fresh £1.67 billion offer yesterday sent its rival bidder Southern Electric into retreat.

ScottishPower, which already owns Manweb, the North West regional electricity company, will today meet Southern Water, which had recommended a £1.6 billion bid from electricity neighbour. It is expected that the directors will back the new offer from the Scottish generator and distribution company, which will deliver share option gains of more than £1.5 million for the four top board members.

Ian Robinson, chief executive, said he believed that the competition authorities would not derail the bid. "The regulators have made it clear in their consultation document that they believe it is good for competition so we are confident."

The document also highlighted the customer benefits that would accrue. ScottishPower have promised a 3 per cent cut in water bills for two years, starting in 1998. Southern Electric admitted defeat within a few hours of ScottishPower's revised bid, saying that it was not prepared to overpay. But it insisted that its bid would have delivered greater efficiencies.

The Scottish bid had managed to raise the stakes to a £1.7 billion bid without committing the company to stumping up that amount. In an unusual move, thought to be the first of its type, the predator said that it would raise its offer to £10.50p a share (from £9.75p), while reserving the right to increase the offer to £11.

It is considered unlikely that there will be another fresh bid, possibly from a US utility or another generator.

Job losses are certain to arise from the absorption of Southern into ScottishPower, although they are expected to run into hundreds, a more modest scale than that anticipated from a regional electricity/water merger.

It is also unlikely that ScottishPower will draft as expansive a board structure as



Robinson: "confident"

that envisaged as a result of the proposed link between Southern Electric and its water neighbour.

The capture of Southern Water and 1.8 million customers will fuel ScottishPower's multi-utility ambitions. With Manweb, its own Scottish base, a presence in southern England and what will become a nationwide network of electrical retail shops, the company aims to become a nationwide name, providing a

basket of utilities when the market for domestic power opens in 1998. Its multi-utility quest, though it has been vaunted for a number of years, also coincides with more concerted pressures on the Scottish competitive market.

ScottishPower is also keen to use the skills of Southern Water in its home base where water and sewerage projects backed by Private Finance Initiatives offer a £1 billion market. It is an area that ScottishPower has already tried to move into, failing on its last bid for a project.

Water and sewerage in Scotland is managed by regional authorities to whom ScottishPower believes it can appeal on local grounds.

The bid will take ScottishPower's gearing to 125 per cent by March next year.

Southern Electric, which only a few weeks ago looked likely to be taken over by National Power, now faces pressure to deliver a "Plan B" and/or shareholder paybacks. Analysts believe that it could make a move on Wessex Water, which is itself bidding for South West Water.

Alternatively Southern Electric, one of the biggest regional companies, could find that it becomes a bid target again.

Under Takeover Panel procedures, ScottishPower must deliver its offer document for Southern Water by Tuesday. It is expected it will have sealed a recommendation from its target's board by then.

Southern Water said nothing yesterday but it is expected to respond after its meeting with ScottishPower today.

Pennington, page 29
Open market, page 31

Flotation millions for technology foursome



Pace of change brings riches

BY JASON NISSE

DAVID HOOD is to cash in £109 million of shares in Pace Micro Technology, the company he founded 14 years ago. His partner, Barry Rubery, is taking £44.4 million out of the company and two other directors, Rob Fleming and Graham Mitchell, will receive around £19 million from the flotation next week.

Even after selling his shares, Mr Hood, who was appointed an OBE last week, will have a holding worth £132 million, making the former television engineer from Bradford one of the 70 richest people in Britain. Mr Rubery's residual stake will be worth £53.5 million.

Pace shares were priced yesterday at 172p each after a book-building exercise when institutional investors were invited to bid for shares.

The market capitalisation of £369 million is almost double what was expected when the flotation was announced, and three times the bid offer made last year by the US group General Instruments.

Mr Hood, 48, founded Pace after being made redundant and started by making modems for computers before Mr Rubery suggested a move into satellite TV receivers. More than a quarter of the company's business comes from BSkyB, which is 40 per cent owned by News International, the owner of The Times. Pace is expanding into digital decoders and expects about 80 per cent of its sales to come from overseas.

Mr Rubery is believed to be planning to spend at least some of his money backing a bid by Conrad International, the leisure wear group, for Leeds United Football Club.

Tempos, page 21



Cashing in: David Hood, left, founder of Pace Technology, and partner Barry Rubery

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET

FT-SE 100	3727.5	(-25.7)
Yield	4.05%	
FT-SE 100 Index	1873.57	(-0.89)
Midcap	22437.30	(+99.54)
New York	8663.86	(+15.51)
Dow Jones	862.75	(+0.78)
S&P Composite	862.75	(+0.78)

LIB RATE		
Fixed Rate	8.5%	(8.5%)
Long Bond	8.5%	(8.5%)
Yield	7.12%	(7.11%)

LONDON MONEY		
3-month Interbank	5.5%	(5.5%)
6-month Interbank	5.5%	(5.5%)
12-month Interbank	5.5%	(5.5%)
Libor 3m	104%	(104%)

NEW YORK		
Dollar	1.5480	(1.5440)
London	1.5418	(1.5488)
DM	1.5418	(1.5488)
FF	7.9877	(7.9839)
SP	1.9343	(1.9325)
Yen	166.25	(166.25)
£ Index	98.9	(98.7)

STOCKS		
London	1.5228	(1.5218)
DM	1.5228	(1.5218)
FF	1.5228	(1.5218)
SP	1.5228	(1.5218)
Yen	108.10	(107.98)
£ Index	98.9	(98.7)

TOKYO		
15-day (Sep)	£17.70	(£17.80)

LONDON CLOSING		
£364.35	(£365.85)	
* denotes midday trading price		

OECD view

Industrial nations must continue to restore their public finances to health, leaving lower interest rates as the main tool to support economic growth, according to the latest economic outlook from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development Page 28

Wessex rumour

WESSEX WATER, which is poised to bid for South West Water, was yesterday rumoured to be the next target of Southern Electric after that company was thwarted in its bid for Southern Water. Page 29, Tempos 30

Export orders at lowest for two years

BY PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BRITISH industry's export orders are running at their lowest level for more than two years, leading to continuing sluggish demand in manufacturing, according to figures from the Confederation of British Industry today.

Business leaders are increasingly concerned about the fall in exports, which have been largely responsible for maintaining economic recovery in the UK. The CBI's latest monthly trends survey shows that export demand weakened further in June, with 29 per cent of the 1,200 firms surveyed saying export orders were below normal, and 18 per cent saying they were above normal — a net balance of minus 11 per cent.

This figure, which compares with a net level of minus 7 per cent in May, is the lowest export order balance in the survey since February 1994.

Domestic orders also remain well below normal, the CBI says, although they are showing a slight improvement. Thirty per cent of firms say orders are below normal, with 17 per cent saying they are above — a net balance of minus 13 per cent. While this is better than April and May, which saw net balances of minus 17 per cent, it means that order books in total have been running at below-normal levels since last September.

Sudhir Janankar, of the CBI, said "manufacturing demand continues to languish in the doldrums", although "the revival in the home market has helped offset the fall in exports due to weak growth in our key

Investors tackle fund in Cayman

BY JON ASHWORTH

INVESTORS locked in a legal battle with Morgan Stanley over a failed investment fund have switched their attention to the Cayman Islands. They have written to the directors of The Global Opportunity Fund, which is domiciled in the territory, alleging breach of contractual duty, and alleging losses of up to \$35 million.

The move, which is a notice of claim, as distinct from a writ, follows legal moves against Morgan Stanley in Luxembourg earlier in the year. Morgan Stanley in Luxembourg acted as administrator and custodian of fund, and certified monthly valuations, supported by independent confirmations, and relied on in good faith. Morgan Stanley International in London provided loans to the investors.

The claims have met with angry denials from Sir David Walker, chairman of Morgan Stanley (Europe) and a past chairman of the Securities and Investments Board. The fund, which failed in February 1995,

was worth up to \$120 million at its peak. It was managed in London by InterCapital Asset Management, whose managing director, Geoffrey de Sibert, is a former director of Kleinwort Benson.

Morgan Stanley denies negligence, and claims it is a target because it is perceived as having "deep pockets". Investors say they were encouraged to invest on the strength of the Morgan Stanley connection.

In letters received in the Caymans on Tuesday evening, the investors allege failure in a duty to ensure that the fund was properly administered. They further allege misrepresentations as to how the fund would be operated.

Morgan Stanley says there is "nothing new" in the Caymans development. A spokesman said: "These letters do not contain any new allegations. They are different from the Luxembourg proceedings, in that they are against the fund as opposed to Morgan Stanley Bank Luxembourg."

Lending points to recovery

EVIDENCE of the consumer recovery emerged yesterday with the publication of figures showing robust growth in both bank lending and money supply last month (Alasdair Murray writes).

M4, the broad measure of money supply, grew at an annualised rate of 10 per cent in May, slightly ahead of expectations and outside the Government's 3 to 9 per cent monitoring range.

Overall bank lending also continued to grow, rising by £3.9 billion in May (£3 billion in April). But consumer credit fell back from April's record high of £564 million to £382 million.

Economists said the figures suggested the boom in consumer spending had almost arrived. Alex Garrard, UK economist at UBS, said: "We expect another [rate] cut in August. The strength of M4 does suggest that inflation will rise in the next year, but previous cuts have been made with M4 outside the Government's target range."

Postal staff urged to accept pay deal

BY PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE Government will intervene today in the Post Office strike by urging postal workers to accept the Royal Mail's pay and productivity offer and giving a warning that the action could cost jobs.

As the postal workers hold their first national strike for eight years, ministers intend to step up their involvement in the dispute, including increasing pressure on Labour and, especially, the party's MPs connected with the strike.

Postal services began to be affected last night by the 24-hour strike by members of the Communication Workers' Union, who started taking action at the end of their shifts.

The strike will continue until the start of tonight's overnight shift, and managers accept there will be a substantial backlog of mail to clear over the weekend.

Talks on the dispute have made little progress on the key issue of the Royal Mail's insistence on the introduction of teamworking. Although

further negotiations are planned for Monday, the union has set a further strike, from noon on June 27 to noon the next day.

Philip Oppenheim, Trade and Industry Minister with responsibility for the Post Office, said that the Post Office package was a good offer and the changes in working practices being sought would increase efficiency.

Speaking to The Times, Mr Oppenheim gave a warning that the strike would lose market share for the Post Office and threatened jobs.

Mr Oppenheim asked: "Why won't Labour condemn a strike which will cause disruption to customers and support a teamworking and efficiency deal which will put good money into the pay packets of the majority of Royal Mail workers? They seem to be setting themselves against exactly the type of progress that the rest of British industry has already made."

Hello! opens door to a flexible friend

BY ANNE ASHWORTH AND SARAH JONES

THE ever-swelling ranks of flexible friends could soon be joined by a glittering newcomer, with royal and celebrity connections. Hello!, the weekly chronicle of the lives of stars, monarchs and their new babies, is planning to launch its own Visa credit card through NWS Bank, a subsidiary of the Bank of Scotland.

Early applicants for the card — likely to become an essential accessory among those who dream of welcoming a Hello! reporter into their lovely homes — could be the Duchess of York, a Hello! perennial.

The Duchess has nothing more to fear from the curse of Hello! This is said to fall on loving couples who feature in the

magazine's gushing pages but soon afterwards part company. Her new book deal should have raised her credit rating, enabling her to meet the Bank of Scotland's qualifying criteria.

Yesterday NWS would not comment on the move. No one was available to comment at Hello!

However, those perhaps interested in tucking a Hello! card into their Vuitton wallet should note that the NWS Sterling Visa card has a higher than average annual percentage rate (APR) of 25.9 per cent, plus a £10-a-year fee. Barclaycard, by comparison, charges 22.3 per cent. Bank of Scotland charity card clients

include Mensa and the NSPCC. Its closest rival, the Royal Bank of Scotland, can boast the Conservative card, while the Co-operative Bank offers the Labour Party card. NWS also manages, but does not issue, The Sunday Times card with no fee and a rate of 18.9 per cent and looks after AA personal loans.

Royalists, however, may prefer another new card from the American-owned MBNA, another affinity card operator. The Prince's Trust, the charity founded by the Prince of Wales to help young persons start businesses, has this week launched a credit card through MBNA which has an APR of 18.9 per cent.



The Duchess of York has often featured in Hello!

TODAY, IT'S
E-MAIL
OR NO MAIL.

The main purpose of any strike is to bring an issue to the attention of a wider audience.

Therefore, at UUNET PIPEX, we'd like to thank today's striking postal workers for the opportunity to bring the cause of e-mail to the notice of the British public.

There's not much one need say about e-mail except that it's faster, cheaper and more flexible than ordinary mail, and that you can get it easily, quickly and inexpensively from the world's biggest Internet provider, through PIPEX Dial.

Oh, and it never goes on strike.

Thank you for your attention.

PIPEX
DIAL

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US radio giant in \$4bn deal

Westinghouse, the US engineering conglomerate that is transforming itself into a media group, stunned the radio industry yesterday with the purchase of Infinity, America's second-largest radio company, for \$3.9 billion.

The deal is a coup for Michael Jordan, who was brought in as chairman to turn around Westinghouse's flagging profits. He bought CBS, the TV network, for \$5.4 billion last year, but the radio deal shows that he is transforming Westinghouse faster than most had expected. He told shareholders: "This is the right deal, with the right partner, in the right industry."

Oakland sold

KPMG, the receivers of Stephen Hinchliffe's collapsed retail empire, yesterday sold the Oakland Menswear chain to Ciro Citterio, a retailer based in Birmingham, saving 140 jobs. Only one part of Facia — Torq, the jeweller — has yet to be sold, along with a few individual shops. The shoe shops that Mr Hinchliffe bought from Sears, which went into administration separately, are still unsold.

Bank plan

Barclays, in a bid to avoid a repetition of the £100 million worth of losses clocked up by lending to middle market companies in the early 1990s, yesterday unveiled a new computer-based risk analysis programme backed by a £15 million investment.

Payout lifted

Caledonia Investments reported a fall in profits to £40.2 million before tax (£44.5 million) in the year March 31. Earnings were 30.7p a share (32.5p). The total dividend rises to 18p (17p), with a final 12.1p. Net asset value rose to 781p a share (637p).



John Mackenzie Green, left, and Paul Hughes, group finance director, have seen C E Heath defy the downward trend in insurance broking

Interest rates hold key to growth, says OECD

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE world's industrialised countries must continue to restore their public finances to health, leaving lower interest rates as the main tool to support economic growth, according to the latest economic outlook from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

The OECD said: "Given the paramount priority which must be attached to restoring sound public finances, medium-term fiscal consolidation is on the agenda nearly everywhere. Consequently, the task of supporting output and employment without rekindling inflation will fall primarily on monetary policy in the years to come." The OECD said that most of the industrialised

countries under its umbrella had come close to achieving the medium-term goal of price stability and that, this year, inflation should be below 3 per cent in 19 OECD countries.

It said it remains important that monetary policy safeguards gains on this front but also said that, in the context of significant slack in output and labour markets and little prospect of inflationary pressures, some "judicious use of monetary easing" would be recommended. This advice was most relevant to Europe which, the OECD forecasts, will grow by an average of only 1.6 per cent this year.

The OECD says that, in order to bring deficits down at a time when the scope for

raising taxes is limited, countries will have to tackle high unemployment through structural reforms. It noted that increases in social security payments have led to a progressive deterioration in the fiscal position of many countries and that population ageing will put even more pressure on national budgets. It added that, in many cases, the design and generosity of transfer systems, as well as the taxes needed to pay for them, had undermined economic incentives, including the incentives to work, to hire workers and to acquire skills. "One result has been an erosion of the tax base and pressure on outlays, contributing to further fiscal deterioration and

pressure on tax rates," the report said.

At the same time, industrialised countries have a duty to make sure that bringing down deficits is done in a fair and efficient way, protecting those most in need to prevent the exacerbation of poverty and social exclusion. And governments should divert more of their resources to investments in human capital — education and training for example — and in infrastructure.

The OECD's forecasts, first published in preliminary form at last month's annual ministerial meeting in Paris, show an estimate of 2.3 per cent growth for America this year but only 0.5 per cent for Germany.

Heath ahead despite fall in premiums

C E HEATH defied the downward trend in insurance broking earnings to report pre-tax profits up slightly, to £20.1 million from £19.1 million in the year to March 31, despite a fall of between 15 to 20 per cent in commercial premium rates (Marianne Curphey writes).

The results included a final contribution from Rebus, the computer services division demerged from Heath in April. Heath shares fell 3p to 111p. Earnings per share slipped to 15.6p from 15.9p. The total dividend is cut to 7.6p from 16p, with a final payment of 4.1p, comprising 3p from Heath and 1.1p from Rebus. John Mackenzie Green, chief executive, said: "We have had to contend with the reality of rates in virtually all classes reducing by an overall average to our business of between 15 and 20 per cent."

Thriving ITN hints at news charge cut

ITN hinted yesterday it would be prepared to cut the £58.5 million a year charge for its services when its contract to provide news for ITV companies comes up for review later this year. Stewart Purvis, chief executive, said: "ITV companies have been consistent supporters through difficult times and they should enjoy the benefits of what has been achieved." BSkyB, which is 40 per cent owned by News International, the owner of *The Times*, has also expressed an interest in bidding for the contract.

Yesterday ITN reported a 63 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to a record £15.3 million. Turnover rose by 4 per cent to £88.7 million, although ITN said it would not pay a dividend but concentrate on paying off debt. ITN won the contract to supply news to Channel 5 when it begins broadcasting in January.

Prudential to shut office

PRUDENTIAL Corporation, Britain's biggest life insurer, is to close its London general insurance claims office and transfer all administration to four other regional centres. The restructuring measure, which could result in the loss of 155 jobs, has revived speculation that the company is preparing for a series of acquisitions. It is believed to have initiated talks with two building societies, the Alliance & Leicester and the Woolwich, both of which plan to convert to banks. *Tempos, page 30*

Bank fined £25,000

THE Securities and Futures Authority has fined the capital markets subsidiary of Standard Chartered £25,000 with costs of £5,000 for failing to monitor properly the activities of one of its traders who managed to conceal losses he had incurred on the futures market. The SFA said Standard Chartered, which has closed its capital markets business, failed to supervise Christopher James Holland, who was reprimanded and fined £5,000 with costs of £3,200.

Lloyd's £300m loan deal

LLOYD'S of London has arranged a £300 million five-year loan to help finance its restructuring and settlement offer to 34,000 names. The loan, arranged by Citibank, NatWest Capital Markets and Royal Bank of Canada, is conditional on the success of Lloyd's plans. Yesterday, Lloyd's sent out a second batch of indicative statements to names detailing how much they will have to pay to settle all their debts to the market. Final statements will go out late next month.

Ireland's three-year low

INFLATION in Ireland is at its lowest level for almost three years, according to the Central Statistics Office. The consumer price index for the quarter to mid-May showed an increase of only 0.4 per cent, giving an annual rate of 1.4 per cent. Inflation for the year to mid-May 1995 was 2.8 per cent. The figure is at the very low end of expectations. Under the EU harmonised index of consumer prices, which excludes mortgage interest repayments, the annual rate to April was 2 per cent.

Norcros back to profit

NORCROS, the conglomerate, returned to profit last year after a major restructuring. In the year to March 31, the company earned pre-tax profits of £13.7 million, against losses of £51 million in the previous year. Profits were struck after exceptional costs of £5.1 million and a net gain of £6.6 million from disposals. However, shareholders will have to wait until next year for the resumption of dividend payments. Earnings were 5.7p a share, against losses of 31.4p.

TransTec acquisition

TRANSTEC, the engineering company, is to acquire BSK, the aluminium diecaster, for £41.9 million, raising £57.6 million with a rights issue to fund the deal. BSK, which supplies components to carmakers, employs about 1,000 people at seven sites in the Midlands, East Anglia and Wales. Pre-tax profits in the year to March 31 were £3.9 million (£1.9 million). The rights issue is on a five shares for nine basis, with shares priced at 103p. TransTec shares rose 7p to 130p yesterday.

Tenneco sells division

TENNECO, the former energy conglomerate, has sold its natural gas division to El Paso Energy in a \$4 billion deal which disposes of its last remaining energy business. El Paso is buying Tenneco Energy for \$750 million as well as assuming \$2.65 billion of Tenneco debt and another \$600 million in other liabilities. The purchase will create an \$8 billion natural gas conglomerate with the first coast-to-coast pipeline system in the US. El Paso said.

JLI suffers downturn

JLI GROUP, the snack foods and ingredients company, is holding the total dividend at 4.95p a share after suffering a downturn in profits to £2.5 million before tax from £3.6 million in the year to March 31. Earnings fell to 5.4p a share from 6.4p. The final dividend is maintained at 3.3p and is due on September 6. Underlying profits, adjusted for disposals, were £2.6 million, reduced from £3.2 million. Yvonne Gottesman, chairman, said trading conditions in the food sector remain tough.

Scope stuns Anglian

HEAVY losses at the Scope extrusions business depressed pre-tax profits at Anglian Group, the double-glazing company. But with Scope already destined to close, Anglian said it is confident that the worst is over. The group's pre-tax profits to March 30 were down to £4.4 million from £21.1 million last year as Scope brought in losses of £11.8 million. Anglian is cutting its final dividend from 6.2p to 4.5p. The full-year dividend will be 7.5p compared with 10.3p.

News Corp in venture to acquire Asahi TV stake

By OUR BUSINESS STAFF

THE News Corporation has formed a joint venture with Japan's largest personal computer software distributor to acquire a 21.4 per cent stake in Asahi National Broadcasting Co, the Japanese television network.

News Corp and Softbank Corp will each pay ¥20.87 billion (about £123 million) to acquire the shareholding in Asahi, one of the four main commercial networks in Japan.

The announcement comes just one week after News Corp, owner of *The Times*,

unveiled plans to launch a digital multichannel service, directly aimed at Japanese customers, within the next two years.

News Corp is expected to invest up to \$400 million in the new service, to be known as JSkyB.

Asahi shares are traded on the second section of the Tokyo Stock Exchange. Its most watched programmes include a Sunday news interview programme and a nightly prime time hour-long news broadcast.

Massayoshi San, president

of Softbank, said that the joint venture had no current plans to increase its shareholding in Asahi.

Softbank has been rapidly expanding in the United States, most significantly with the purchase of Ziff-Davis Communications, the magazine publisher, for \$1.8 billion.

Other purchases have been Interface and Comdex, two conference organisers, for \$800 million each. The company also has a stake in Yahoo Inc, a provider of Internet search software.

Water utilities' challenge 'to win public confidence'

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

IAN BYATT, Director-General of Water Services, has admitted that people lack confidence in the water industry and Ofwat, its regulator. Winning public confidence was now perhaps the biggest challenge ahead, he said.

In his annual report, the water regulator defends the industry's performance in a "difficult year" of drought, with the exception of Yorkshire Water, whose former management had cut corners to cut costs. Companies had performed better than in previous droughts before privatisation, and customers had not been cut off, even in Yorkshire.

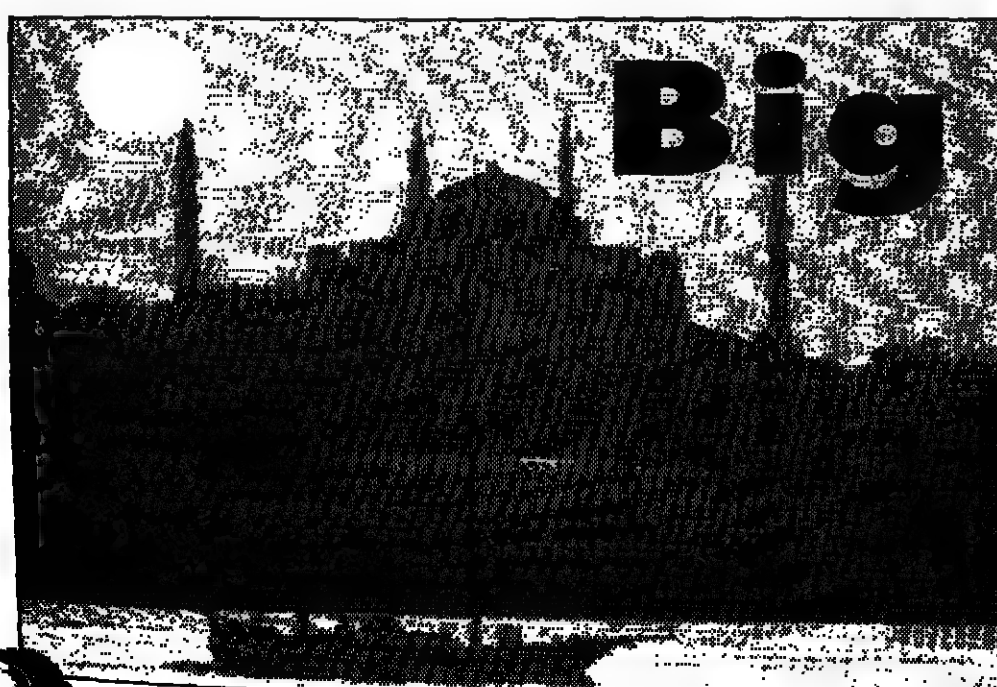
All the companies needed to compensate customers faster for mistakes, Mr Byatt suggested. They should also help customers to identify leaks in their own pipes and repair them free. Customers should be offered free meters and companies should explain where the money for big dividend rises had come from.

Ofwat published proposed changes in Yorkshire Water's licence to enforce the price standstill and performance pledges of June 3. They oblige Yorkshire to restrain dividend payments, treat its regulated water subsidiary as a stand-alone business, certify service standards for work contracted out, and meet tougher leakage standards.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buy	Bank Sell
Australia \$	3.05	1.88
Austria Sch	17.15	10.08
Belgium Fl	51.30	47.00
Canada C	2.218	2.056
Cyprus Cyp£	0.787	0.702
Denmark Kr	9.82	8.82
Finland Mk	7.73	7.08
France F	8.38	7.73
Germany Dm	2.50	2.29
Greece Dr	367	382
Hong Kong \$	12.57	11.57
Ireland P	1.02	0.94
Israel Shk	5.41	4.78
Italy Lit	2473	2318
Japan Yen	180.70	184.70
Malta	0.296	0.541
Netherlands Gld	2.784	2.554
New Zealand \$	2.42	2.20
Norway Kr	10.80	9.80
Portugal Esc	252.50	244.00
S Africa Rd	7.28	6.48
Spain Pta	205.00	182.00
Sweden Kr	10.87	10.07
Switzerland Fr	5.07	4.68
Turkey Lira	126980	120690
USA \$	1.839	1.509

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.



Big and beautiful

This summer one of the biggest international conferences ever was held in Istanbul, with nearly 20,000 delegates attending. Turkey's conference facilities are now some of the finest in the world. The futuristic **Istanbul Convention and Exhibition Centre (ICEC)** alone has 4000 seating capacity with an adjacent high technology Communications Centre. 5 star hotel accommodation is plentiful, with abundant congress rooms from grand ballrooms to intimate meeting areas.

And of course Turkey's surrounding natural beauty is unparalleled.

On **July 4th**, the **Turkish Tourist Office in London** is hosting a Workshop focusing on Conference and Incentive Travel opportunities in Turkey. Representatives from many blue chip companies will be present to meet with you and inform you of their impressive resources. This exciting event will begin at 10.00 a.m. at the Intercontinental Hotel in London, with a concluding cocktail party at 6.00 p.m. For a special invitation please telephone Margaret Hopkins at the Turkish Tourist Office on **0171 355 4207**.

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Chairman, R.I.A. Manager
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Eric Glover, F
Conference

Linda Mann
Barclay
Tel: 4

□ Still questions over mortgage recovery □ Scots firmly pitched on Southern soil □ British think the worst of themselves

House key is in the seller

THIS was the news the housing market had been waiting for. People actually want to take out mortgages to buy property, not to get a better deal on the loan they already have. The sharp rises in net advances and mortgage approvals were hailed as "fantastic" and "encouraging" by relieved lenders and estate agents struggling out of the housing slump. The spluttering flame of the "feel-good" factor flared strongly again.

It would be churlish to doubt it. But things are never as easy as they look. Wanting to buy a house is one thing. Finding the right one is quite another. Half a decade of housing slump has taken its toll, and demand is now out of step with supply. As house prices went into free fall in the early 1990s, buyers disappeared. Sellers either did not put their houses on the market at all or if they did demanded prices which looked increasingly unrealistic.

Owners of one bedroom flats who had paid inflated prices at the height of the boom realised with horror that buyers could get a three bedroom house for the same money. Now the buyers are coming back, but unfortunately they do not want what is on offer. Details of thousands of one bedroom flats and studios

languish unseen at the back of estate agents' filing cabinets, while buyers fight over the few larger flats and family houses. Agents report a chronic shortage of instructions to sell the houses that people want to buy, as potential sellers see prices moving up and decide to wait. Gazumping has returned as a topic of conversation for middle-class dining rooms, along with calls for reform of the conveyancing system.

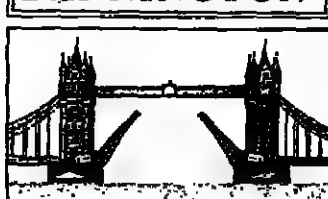
Ironically, cheap mortgage money, which has played such a big part in bringing buyers back to the market, has contributed to some of this mismatch. First-time buyers, desperately sought after as the key to the housing recovery, discover they can afford to buy a bigger home than they expect and leapfrog the small, cramped starter flats they would have been stuck with during the boom. Everyone else moves on, leaving the victims of the 1980s clinging to the bottom rung of the housing ladder. The mismatch could start to

right itself later on this summer. Demand for more expensive homes is pushing up prices, despite continuing despair lower down the line. Monthly price indices from the major building societies are a notoriously blunt instrument, giving no hint of the fragmentation underneath, but the announcement of month-on-month rises seems to galvanise buyers into action. Sellers are now the key. If they hold back to wait for higher prices, they will deal a severe blow to prospects for a stable housing market.

Breaking up a cosy merger

THERE was one group of clear losers when Southern Electric gave up the fight for its neighbouring water company yesterday. Not Southern Water shareholders certainly, although they may have missed out on the final act of a bidding war, but the company's board of directors. Scottish had cleverly pre-

PENNINGTON



empted a higher Electric bid by placing an extra 50p a share on the table, but only to be used in such a contingency. The minds of men and merchant bankers grow ever more clever; expect this device to be used again in three-way takeover bids. It certainly pushed the cost of success into the £11 a share stratosphere where a renewed Electric offer would have had its own shareholders asking some pointed questions.

By breaking up a local water-electricity merger, the Scots have pre-empted a cosy arrangement which allowed all the directors of both companies to keep their

jobs, many with fancy new titles. So much for boardroom unemployment; the merger would, of course, have cost a thousand or so jobs elsewhere.

Southern Electric now has a limited number of choices. It can return cash to shareholders, either immediately or as a defence to a hostile bid — the company has agreed loss of independence once, to National Power, and several American utilities were sniffing around earlier this week. Or it can attempt to merge with the only other water company that makes geographical sense, Wessex. The only problem here is that Wessex is itself embroiled in a three-way bid for South West.

ScottishPower's keenness to take Southern Water smacks of desperation, and the reason is not hard to fathom. Conditions in its home market are unexciting. PowerGen is threatening its share of the generation market by building the first English-owned station on Scottish soil, while the regulator only a fort-

night ago announced a squeeze on supply profits. But the wholesale redrawing of the utilities map has more to do with fears of a Labour government than with individual cases. On that basis, a wise investor should still be well stocked with utilities shares.

Paying extra to go Dutch

BRITISH businesses are the worst in the world at making effective use of their employees. This is a proven fact, because it emerges from one of those tedious and tendentious executive surveys, this one from management consultant Proudfoot.

The pretentiously-titled *People Power* in fact proves nothing of the kind. It does prove that we British, in a typical orgy of national self-deprecation, merely think we are the worst at handling our employees. Only 16 per cent of UK company directors express satisfaction at their skills. Our continental partners,

however, reckon they are the bees' knees. The French fairly hug themselves with self-congratulation, because four out of five executives there are "very satisfied" with their ability to communicate with their employees. The views of French workers on their bosses' communications skills are not noted.

One solution to the corporate ills turned up by such surveys is to hire a management consultant to handle them — an outfit called Proudfoot comes oddly to mind. But if we top the league in self-abasement, then guess in which country nearly half the executives, the best score worldwide, reckon they handle staff rather well? Answer: the Dutch. Mind you, they used to think they could play football as well.

Fat cat bounce

HERE is an odd thought. When fat cat bosses depart with huge share option profits, massive compensation terms, vast executive bonuses or whatever, do they have a whipround in the office? Does the brown envelope and the oversized Best Wishes card come out for them too? Or is it only you and I who leave clutching a carriage clock or a personal organiser?

Wessex may face bid by Southern Electric

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

WESSEX WATER, which is poised to bid for South West Water, was yesterday rumoured to be the next target of Southern Electric after that company was thwarted in its bid for Southern Water.

Shares in Wessex closed 7p higher at 345p, driven up by the market speculation and by a healthy set of results.

Nicholas Hood, chairman of Wessex, said that if he were to receive any offers he would consider them, but he hoped Wessex can remain independent and bid for South West. Rival proposed bids by Wessex and by Severn Trent for South West are now before the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. It is expected to report its findings in the autumn.

Yesterday, Wessex unveiled pre-tax profits up 14 per cent to £33.9 million for the year ending March 31, on the back



Hood: prefers independence

of a 4 per cent reduction in costs in its water business. It will pay a final dividend of 10.2p per share. The full-year dividend will be 15.2p, compared to 13.2p last year.

The company's joint venture with Waste Management International, UK Waste, now market leader, made a contribution of £12.2 million, up 20

per cent on last year. Mr Hood said: "We are unlikely to do any major waste takeovers but we may make some tuck-in acquisitions."

Mr Hood argued that Wessex had the strongest case for taking over South West. "Even merged with South West, Wessex would be the second smallest water company in Britain. For Severn Trent to get larger would be a step too far."

Mr Hood sought to reassure shareholders that Wessex would not overpay for South West. "If the requirements of the regulatory and competition authorities are too onerous we will not make an offer," he said.

But he added that if it does take over South West it would mean extensive cost savings, lower charges for South West customers and immediately enhanced earnings.

Tempos, page 30

Northern Electric pledge on payout

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

NORTHERN ELECTRIC, the only electricity company to mount a successful defence against a hostile takeover bid, insisted yesterday that it would honour payments promised to shareholders, in spite of an expected revenue drop of £95 million over the next four years.

The revenue reduction will come from the regulator's distribution price review. But Northern, which is set to pay out £55 million in a special dividend to shareholders next year, said it would try to counter the damage with a push in gas supply and further cost cutting. The company unveiled a package of shareholder benefits last year when it was fighting off Trafalgar House.

This year Northern's gearing is 74 per cent but will rise to just under 175 per cent next year. Northern's prospects after its fight against Trafalgar are considered uncertain

by some investors. But David Morris, chairman, insisted the company was able to look at generation ventures and enter the competitive market for domestic electricity in 1998. Pre-tax profit for the year to March 31 was £150.8 million, compared with £140.7 million. Profits were trimmed by £25 million from the impact of the distribution price review set last year but flattered by the company's sale of its stake in the National Grid. The final dividend, payable August 12, is 27.9p, lifting the total payment 7 per cent to 39.9p.

Tempos, page 30

Broker and director sent to jail

A FORMER London stockbroker and the chairman of a public company who had links with Norton Group, famed for its motorcycle marque, were sentenced yesterday for their part in a "greedy and deceitful scheme" which earned up to £1 million in dishonest profits (Robert Miller writes).

At Southwark Crown Court, Simon Fussell, former chairman of Minity, a furniture company, was jailed for two years and Rudolph De Mendonca, for nine months for conspiring to defraud Priest Maritime Holdings. An SFO inquiry into Norton's collapse continues.

Bank planned for Asian businesses

BY OLIVER AUGUST

AN INDIAN industrialist is planning to set up a London-based bank to help Asian businessmen to develop commercial operations without having to rely on domestic financial institutions.

Srichand P Hinduja is preparing an application to the Bank of England to become a licensed deposit-taker in a move that would fill a widely perceived gap in the market.

After the collapse of Bank of Credit and Commerce International, Asian businesses have increasingly had to rely on high street banks with a culture often alien to them.

The bank planned by Mr

Hinduja's unlisted Industind Organisation would have British and Asian partners. It would establish subsidiaries in various regions of the world, Mr Hinduja said yesterday.

Mr Hinduja is the founder and global co-ordinator of Industind, which owns banks in India and Switzerland. He is also chairman of the London-based Hinduja Group, a top Indian business group.

His family is thought to be well placed to win the confidence of the Asian community because of its high profile in India and Britain.

FAIRPLACE CONFERENCES

CREDIT STANDARDS TODAY
27th June 1996, The Brewery, London EC2

"Credit standards are most important when conditions appear most favourable. The mistakes banks make then haunt them in the next downturn"

Tom Donaldson,
Chairman, Risk Management Committee,
British Bankers' Association

In recent months these misgivings about declining credit standards - in banks and building societies - have been echoed by the Bank of England, and the purpose of the conference is to highlight some of the danger areas with lessons drawn from the boom period of the 1980's.

The speakers are amongst the most authoritative in their fields, and Pen Kent, a leading spokesman for the Bank of England, is expected to use the opportunity to publish the Bank's current view.

Eric Glover, Fairplace
Conference Chairman

PROGRAMME

0900 - 0930	Registration
0930 - 1010	Overview - The credit cycle and variations in standards. Tom Donaldson, Chairman, Risk Management Committee British Bankers Association
1010 - 1050	Lessons of 1987 to 1991 - Case History Peter Shields, Credit Sector Head, Credit Suisse
1050 - 1120	Coffee
1120 - 1200	Loan Structure / Control - Finding the right formula. Types of borrower Maturity Margins, Assessing the risk. Ken McGloin, Head of European Finance, Bankers Trust.
1200 - 1240	Documentation / Covenants - The need for proper definitions. Relationships between group companies. Sean Boylan, Director, Syndications and Loan Distribution BZW
1240 - 1400	Lunch
1400 - 1440	Legal Aspects - Status of borrower. Effects of EU legislation Robin Parsons, Partner Cameron Markby Hewitt
1440 - 1520	Sources of Credit Information Philip Mellor, Senior Analyst, Dun and Bradstreet
1520 - 1540	Tea
1540 - 1620	Staff Training Background - recent changes in the Banking business. Changes in the employment environment Training content. Training delivery. Validation. The future Chris Soder, Head of Credit Strategy & Policy, NatWest
1620 - 1700	A Central Banker's View Pen Kent, Executive Director, Bank of England

FURTHER INFORMATION

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ScottishPower

Increased and Final* Offer for Southern Water

for further information please call

0800 468 602







ELECTRICITY
GAS
TELECOMS
RETAIL
WATER

The Directors of Scottish Power plc are the persons responsible for this advertisement. Those Directors confirm that, to the best of their knowledge and belief, having taken all reasonable care to ensure that such is the case, the information contained in this advertisement is in accordance with the facts and does not omit anything likely to affect the import of such information. The Directors of Scottish Power plc accept responsibility accordingly.

*Scottish Power plc reserves the right to raise the Increased Cash Offer of £10.50 by up to a further 50p from its own resources - to a maximum of £11.00 per Southern Water Share - in the event that a higher offer for Southern Water is announced by another offeror.

Shareholders should note that Southern Electric has announced it will allow its offer for Southern Water to lapse.

THE TIMES FRIDAY JUNE 21 1996

MICHAEL CLAR



Put: 28517 FT-SE Call: 3603 Put: 13907
Underlying security price.

مكذمان للأصحا

New York	1.5408-1.5420
rio	10.062-10.066
uris	7.9620-7.9730
Stockholm	10.196-10.221
kyo	166.60-166.96
erina	16.518-16.548
rich	1.9321-1.9355

Source: *Eurib*

112-1.5420	0.085-0.035pr	0.105-0.075pr
99-10.065	¹ / ₂ pr	¹ / ₂ pr
99-7.970b	1 ¹ / ₂ pr	3 ¹ / ₂ pr
101-10.221	¹ / ₂ ds	¹ / ₂ ds
75-166.9b	¹ / ₂ pr	2 ¹ / ₂ pr
30-1b.598	¹ / ₂ pr	1 ¹ / ₂ pr
131-1.9355	¹ / ₂ pr	1 ¹ / ₂ pr

Premium = pr. Discount = ds.

enails	654	Tomkins	3,700
gness	2,000	Unilever	2,600
C	1,100	United Unis	695
son	7,100	Vodafone	5,600
	3,200	Whitbread	2,000
fisher	1,800	Wilms Ltd	320
MO	1,600	Wolscey	1,400
probe	3,900	Zeneca	3,400

Corp.	44%	44%	NL Industries	4
Chemical	74%	74%	Norram Energ	1
nsco	38	39%	Nordstrom	1
Power	44%	44%	Norfolk Stern	4
Industries	62%	62%	Nthn State Pm	1
Chem	62%	79%	Norwest Corp	3
Chem	63%	63%	Nymex Corp	2
			Occidental Pet	2
			Ohio Edison	2

20%	Wells Fargo	23%	24%
12%	Westinghouse	18%	15%
10%	Weyerhaeuser	47%	47%
9%	Whitpool	50%	50%
8 1/2%	Whitman	26%	30%
8%	Winn-Dixie	34%	34%
7 1/2%	Winn-Dixie	21%	21%
7%	Wm. (Wm) Jr	50%	50%
6 1/2%	Wm. (Wm) Jr	51%	52%
6%	Yellow Corp	13%	13%

Put 25512 FTSE Call: 3603 Put 13907	BBB	47%	64	32	107%	135	168	Scot Pwr.	300	25	29%	32	13	68	25
Underlying security price.	Dec	85	-	181%	-	172%	-	(312)	330	11	16	20	31	35	40

Verma	16.518-16.548	16.530-16.548	1/2 pr	1 1/2 pr
Wurich	1.9321-1.9355	1.9331-1.9355	1/2 pr	1 1/2 pr
Source: Ertel				
Premium = pr. Discount = ds.				

Windsor	1,800	Windsor	1,200	Bo Park	78%	78%	Nynes Corp.
MO	1,600	Wolsky	1,400	Eastman Chem	53%	53%	Occidental Pet
Grote	3,900	Zeneca	3,400				Ohio Edison

Whitewash	21%	21%
Wingdy (Wm) Jr	39%	50
Wings	51%	52
Yellow Corp	15%	13%

مكتبة من الامم

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

When adding up is no joke

EDDIE GEORGE had the last laugh at a dinner to celebrate the opening of the Chartered Institute of Bankers' new London offices this week. In his opening address to guests, including Andrew Buxton, Barclays Bank chairman, and Graham Kentfield, chief cashier of the Bank of England, Mr George referred to a recent speech he had made, when he had joked that there are three types of economist — those who can and those who can't count.

At a banking conference the week after, he was approached by a well-known banker. He complimented him on his joke, which had been reported in the newspapers, adding: "But they spoil it, they didn't say what the third type of economist was."

Extra shares

BUDDING film stars can now buy their way into a part of the City. The new film company, based at Pinewood Studios, is offering shares priced at £1 each, with the added incentive of the chance to appear alongside Anna Massey and Simon Callow in the production that it hopes to finance — *The Scarlet Tunic*. The producers are half way to raising the necessary £500,000. Investors are offered generous tax benefits. The offer closes on July 1, but 350 extras are still needed.

SCOTTISHPOWER has had some across-the-board support for its bid for Southern Water. The Scots, who yesterday fended off rival Southern Electric with an increased offer, received a faxed message of support from *Surfers Against Sewage*.



"I think they're from ScottishPower!"

Cricket shelved

SIR Ian MacLaurin, chairman of Tesco, was being praised by Sir Colin Cowdrey, the legendary batsman and former chairman of the International Cricket Council, at a dinner sponsored by the supermarket chain this week. Speaking on the eve of the Second Test against India at Lord's, Sir Colin said that he once considered Sir Ian "a promising young cricketer" during his time with the Kent 2nd XI. "Young MacLaurin came up and told me one day that he was leaving. 'I've got a job at the local store,' he said. 'And where will that get you, pray?' I asked. 'Further than a career in cricket' was the reply."

Thorny issue

CONSTERNATION all round in Darlington yesterday after it was discovered that several hanging baskets in the town's centre were sprouting plastic flowers. Two of the offending businesses, the department store Boyes and the Golden Cocker pub, have upset the local council, which is busy preparing for the national "Britain in Bloom" contest. Normal practice is that the council's nurseries sell baskets of fresh flowers to businesses. A council spokesman said: "They're letting the side down. We want to win this competition and we are not going to do it unless everyone gets their finger out."

MORAG PRESTON

Work it out — and head for home on time tonight

Morag Preston

on a drive to draw attention to the long hours spent on UK business

In spite of it being the first national "Go Home On Time Day", Peter Owen, chief executive of PPP Healthcare, the sponsor of the event, will be working late tonight, representing his company at a charity open event. According to his colleagues, the 49-year-old father of three young children, "works double shifts all the time".

Over the past ten years, the number of people in Britain working excessively long hours has increased significantly and men in the UK now work the longest hours in Europe. In a circular sent to PPP staff yesterday, Mr Owen said: "Extra hours are sometimes a necessity. But I hope that we are sensible enough that what matters is to work smarter, not harder." About 70 per cent of employees say that work keeps them from their loved ones and almost 80 per cent say pressures at work have led to illness, according to a PPP report.

David Sainsbury, chairman of the J Sainsbury, the supermarket chain, Sir Nicholas Goodison, deputy chairman of Lloyds-TSB, and John Reid, chairman of Colgate-Palmolive, are supporting today's event. Other companies backing it include Ford, British Airways, Whitbread, M&C Saatchi, Abbey National, Ernst & Young, Royal Bank of Scotland, SmithKline Beecham, Body Shop, UniChem, Unilever International, ScottishPower, Guinness, Somerfield, Northern Bank, Tetrapak and Shandwick. Government departments include trade and industry, education and the Inland Revenue.

Barclays said: "We're fully aware of it being tomorrow, but have left it up to local managers as to whether they take part in it. We haven't sent out any general correspondence. We have long-term policies, including part-time work, career breaks, and job sharing." And Deutsche Morgan Grenfell said: "We're not aware of it, and I doubt anyone is doing it. Going home on time is not really part of the make-up of investment banking."

Howard Davies is Deputy Governor of the Bank of England, one of the few City institutions to head "Go Home On Time Day". As a figurehead for the campaign, and someone who has said the Government should encourage better childcare opportunities for women and more training for part-time workers, he spends more time now with his family than when he was Director-General of the Confederation of British Industry. When he was first offered the Bank post, however, his wife pointed out



Worker's playtime: Howard Davies, a figurehead for today's campaign, with his sons, George and Archie, in 1994

that Eddie George, the Governor, had to be brought back from a holiday in Switzerland to deal with the collapse of Barings.

But the man who became controller of the Audit Commission at 35 and replaced Rupert Pennant-Rea at 44 still isn't home until midnight at least two nights a week. Only last Sunday, Mr Davies was woken at dawn while on work in the US. It was his eight and 11-year-old sons, Archie and George, wanting to wish him a Happy Father's Day. "I have more homework now, but my children have got used to it," he says.

So that he sees as much of his children as work will allow, Mr Davies says "no" to weekend conferences and makes his priority the time before "books" — the daily meeting with which the Bank's day starts. "My children expect to see me at breakfast," says Mr Davies, who drives one son to school on his way to work each morning. "Unfortunately, it means he arrives at school rather early. But it allows me to go into his classroom, to count the number of stars he has got, and talk to his teacher. I feel quite in touch on that side." Pru Keely, his wife, and a senior producer with Channel 4 news, takes their second child to school, and an au pair takes responsibility for the boys for the rest of the day. Mr Davies, who calls home every day that he travels abroad — usually

once a month — says he makes every effort to attend school events. "I think it is important to create a culture in an organisation that allows you to say that you are taking time off to go to a school concert." Why we work excessively long hours was the focus of a recent survey by Parents at Work, the charity organising today's event. Ninety six per cent of those surveyed cited "pressure of workload" as one of the reasons for working long hours, while 35 per cent cited "pressure from line management". More than 70 per cent said they wanted to change their work hours, and 10 per cent said they were considering giving up their jobs. Lucy Daniels, director of Parents at Work, says: "We have touched a modern day taboo subject. There's a general feeling of impotence, but we need to break the vicious circle."

More than half of the UK's top 700 companies say that stress levels have increased during the past three years, according to a survey by the Industry Society. Absenteeism, decreased productivity, and high staff turnover are among the effects suffered. Government figures estimate that £16 billion a year is lost through work-related accidents and illness. Although the long hours clocked up at work in the UK are nothing compared to those

worked in Japan, where 10,000 people a year are thought to die from overwork. Among the catastrophes in which human fatigue has played a part are the Exxon Valdez oil spillage, the Chabot disaster, the Bhopal gas leak, and the Clapham Junction railway crash. Karen Moyle, deputy chief executive of Hill & Knowlton, one of the largest PR firms in the world, occasionally has to take to one side employees who are working excessively long hours. "Since the recession, there has been this vicious circle. We work long hours all the time, such that it has become a habit. But if you want to be productive and creative, you have to do other things as well." She adds: "We're still not as good as we should be, the majority of my staff is female, so we have to be more flexible — we do hit more maternity leaves. There are some employees who are too important for us not to be flexible."

Five days a week, Mrs Moyle leaves her four-year-old and nine-month-old sons with their nanny and father, who works from a summer house in their Maidenhead garden. Back home by 8pm, she heads straight for her four-year-old son's bedroom to read him a story. "He wants my news, and I want to hear his. He likes to know exactly what's happening... but he has just started pursuing his lips if I come home later than

expected." Mrs Moyle, who took six weeks off work after the birth of each child, says: "I couldn't stay at home 24 hours a day. I would be a good mum if I did. I still don't think society gives enough reward to those women who do. The real problem for me would be if I couldn't find good childcare." She prefers to entertain clients at breakfast and lunch, and has made Wednesdays sacrosanct for time with her husband. "Until we did that, we would pass like ships in the night."

Shift work was introduced at PPP last autumn. The new hours were not immediately attractive to staff at the offices, and there were some resignations. But, according to Denis Walker, director of human resources, employees are at last finding it more flexible. The change was not introduced to ease the pressure on employees, however. "It has to be about business at the end of the day," Mr Walker says. "We are here to meet customer needs. Recently, we introduced a 24-hour helpline. These are the services that will grow and grow. People are going to have to plan their leisure time and be more flexible."

Powering into place for an open market

Christine Buckley on how utilities are positioning themselves for competition

Amid the apparent turmoil in utilities, a goal is becoming clearer — and more urgent. Synergies, cost savings and all the usual business criteria still apply. But the real issue is the customer — and the route to market.

With full competition in household gas and electricity less than two years away, the positioning to snap up customer banks is becoming a scramble. ScottishPower, which yesterday lifted its bid for Southern Water to £1.67 billion, has made clear its intention to launch a nationwide range of utility services marketed on the back of a strong local presence fostered between now and April 1998.

Ian Robinson, chief executive, maintained that Southern Water was worth a premium to ensure that a rival bid by Southern Electric was defeated because of the competitive edge it would give the Scottish company in 1998. "What we have seen in the industrial competitive market so far is almost certainly going to be repeated in the consumer market." Users of more than 100kW of electricity can already shop around for their power. So far, 52,000 buy electricity this way and prices have generally fallen by about 15 per cent.

ScottishPower plans to mount its campaign across the utilities, offering gas and electricity to an expanding base. With a string of high street shops, it plans to become a household name. It already owns Manweb, the regional electricity company based in the North West. Southern Water will provide a suitable foothold in the South. Additionally, it will bolster a national presence with its chain of electrical retailers through which its utility services will eventually be available.

The counterbid by Southern Electric, which will now lapse, was a defensive move against a newcomer that threatened to offer power to customers on its doorstep. Lacking the financial clout of ScottishPower, Southern Electric retreated.

The prospect of an open market in electricity and gas has also attracted interest from retail chains and financial services companies that

deal direct with the public. J Sainsbury, Marks & Spencer, Direct Line and Virgin have all been the subject of speculation about their energy intentions.

The pace of the race to market is quickening. Unlike the gas market, which is having a staged introduction to domestic competition through regional trials, electricity will open all at once. Pessimists would argue that the impact of competition in the energy market may be slight. So far, about 10 per cent of customers in the South West, where households can buy gas from a variety of companies, have switched from British Gas. There, however, the attractions are far greater than they can be in electricity. Rivals, able to take advantage of cheap prices for gas and British Gas's exposure to expensive take-or-pay contracts, are offering tariffs up to 23 per cent cheaper than British Gas.

The practicalities of encouraging competition in household electricity are daunting. The route to market will be technically facilitated by the electricity pool, the wholesale market for power which also implements trading and settlement in the industry, the regional companies and the Office of Electricity Regulation. And therein lies a potential minefield. It is a gargantuan task and one that many observers and participants fear is about to come to grief.

The problems and aggressive marketing experienced by some gas consumers in the South West — where rival companies can ply for trade with British Gas — will heighten foreboding. So detailed is the information currently needed by suppliers that personal identification numbers are being planned to have 28 digits. No customer trials are to be held ahead of the April 1998 date for the opening of the electricity market. This is because it would disadvantage a local company to lose market share ahead of the others.

Meanwhile, ScottishPower's vision remains intact. It has seen off Southern Electric and will soon start to establish a greater presence on the high street in the South of England.

Jason Nissé joins the admen's birthday bash

Saatchi party unites Tories

Never mind the beef ban and the referendum on Europe, if you wanted to find consensus within Tory ranks you needed to be at the first birthday party of M&C Saatchi, its new advertising agency.

Wednesday night's bash, which started at the Saatchi Gallery in leafy St John's Wood, north London, and moved on to a nightclub in risqué Shepherd Market, was graced by the Prime Minister and half his Cabinet.

Maurice Saatchi welcomed John Major with a quote from W B Yeats — an embodiment of the Anglo-Irish initiative. The Yeats lines chosen included: "Say my glory was I had such friends", and not the more dangerously apt: "Things fall apart, the centre cannot hold".

On hand to introduce Mr Major were "the three amigos", the senior Saatchi & Saatchi directors whose departure led to M&C's formation — Bill Muirhead, David Kershaw and Jeremy Sinclair, the only man flattered to be mistaken for Lord Tebbit. But there was no show for the Scarlet Pimpernel of advertising, M&C founder and gallery owner Charles Saatchi.

"It's far easier to get the Prime Minister to turn up than Charles," commented one amigo. The response drawn from Adrian Martin of M&C Saatchi's auditors, BDO Stoy Hayward, was: "I'm impressed by the Prime Minister



John Major and Maurice Saatchi with party guest

being at your first birthday party, but I'll be more impressed if you get the Prime Minister at your second."

Supporting Mr Major were Michael Howard, Peter Lilley, Brian Mawhinney, Lord Wakeham, and William Waldegrave sporting a rather fetching open-collared shirt. While these largely represented the new generation at the top of the party, much of the supporting cast harked back to the Thatcher era.

Indeed with Lord King, Lord Hanson, Sir Michael Richardson, Sir Evelyn de Rothschild, John Rittblat, the newly ennobled Marmaduke Hussey, and Sir Tim Bell accepting champagne and cocktail sausages from staff

dressed in romper suits, there was an expectation that Baroness Thatcher might make an appearance. She didn't. But her successor as the most powerful woman in Britain was, Cue Carol Galley, of Mercury Asset Management, to the excitement of many of M&C's clients in whom her company has significant shareholdings.

The party thronged around the current exhibition at the Saatchi Gallery, which was not one for Euro-sceptics. The series of oversized heads, nude bodies and wood face carvings were the work of Stephan Balkenhol, a sculptor from Germany. But for those inter-

ested in the other great European event involving this country — the Euro 96 football championships — there was no joy. Dozens of TV screens were showing the adverts created by M&C in its first year, but none could be tuned to the tussle between our EC partners Germany and Italy.

The sports-minded were forced to retire to the The Victoria public house next door, which enjoyed a roaring trade as football fans, many sporting the "Saatchi, one year old" badges of party traitors, crowded round the giant screen to see Italy ejected from Europe. As the game reached its crescendo, Alan Yentob, the newly crowned BBC director of programmes, appeared. But he showed no interest in the BBC's exemplary coverage of Euro 96 — he was there to use the pay phone.

Of course, the party thronged with bright young things from advertising — men called Sebastian in jeans and Katherine Hannett T-shirts; girls in short, short skirts, not worrying whether their lack of tights failed to bring them respect in the office. The staff of M&C Hong Kong office, meanwhile, were dressed as Chinese coolies.

All in all, the party was reminiscent of how Maurice and Charles's old agency used to celebrate. As one partygoer was heard to comment: "They've reinvented the 1980s in the 1990s."

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INFORMATION SERVICE

[illegible]



DESIGN

Alternatives to Libeskind: the V&A puts on display the boilerhouses it rejected



JAZZ

Arturo Sandoval is forced to go acoustic as the lights go off at Ronnie Scott's

THE TIMES ARTS



MUSIC

More Czech than the Czechs: Roger Norrington talks about his authentic *Má vlast*



TOMORROW

The art of Gazza: even the cultural world is jumping on the bandwagon

Marcus Binney casts an eye over the designs for the V&A's Boilerhouse site that failed to make the grade

What you see is what you didn't get

If you like expressive, mind-stretching architecture, as I do, the Daniel Libeskind proposal for the Victoria & Albert Museum is a sensation, a brilliant marriage of architecture and engineering and a tour de force of novelty and exuberance. However, doubters will welcome the opportunity to compare the competing designs now on show at the V&A.

The problem lies in the brief, which demands a whopping 10,000 square metres of usable space in a relatively small site where the V&A for years stored coal for its once vast boilerhouse. Sir Michael Hopkins, one of the competitors, says, "This means filling the courtyard side to side with seven storeys of accommodation." In his scheme, Hopkins excavated the whole central courtyard of the museum, the Pirelli Garden, to put 4,000 square metres of exhibition and gallery space underground.

Other competitors dug down, too, but none to the same extent. The result, as the V&A's exhibition shows, is some amazing but overwhelming architecture that sits very uneasily in an important historic context.

Foster and Partners produced the most elegant resolution, an oval tower well away from the buildings around the Boilerhouse courtyard. But for the V&A it was too discreet and good-mannered. It wanted a humdrum of a building, proclaiming the 21st century and the museum's commitment to contemporary design.

Curators were also uncomfortable about the curving gallery walls — difficult to place objects against.

Nicholas Grimshaw provided the V&A with an ingenious cube within a cube which would glow sensationally in the evening. Flaps in the inner cube would open up to give tantalising glimpses of exhibitions within.

Zaha Hadid also produced a highly transparent design, iridescent with jewel-like colour. Eva Jiricna created an ingenious amoebic structure, designed to give breathing space to the architecture around.

and added a glazed conservatory restaurant with a wonderful view over the Pirelli Garden. Ian Ritchie suggested an amazing transparent rhinoceros horn, a simple contrast to the rich architecture around. Benson and Forsyth went for a San'Elia-like futuristic vision of a city in the sky, far taller than any other entry.

The test of Libeskind's winning design must be threefold. Will it fulfil its function? Will it be the lasting landmark the V&A seeks? And does it fit in its context?

The main flaw is that it offends the first principle of opening places to the public:

The brief demands a whopping 10,000 sq m of usable space

that as little as possible should be put in the way of visitors and what they come to see. Libeskind, like the Duke of York, marches his visitors to the top of his spiral and down again, albeit with the help of express lifts and escalators. The bird's-eye view from the rooftop orientation centre is certainly exciting, but will it really be more enlightening than a Perspect model near the main entrance which clearly marks out the different galleries? Foster had the less exciting but more practical idea of placing the "orientation centre" in the heart of the museum, midway between the two entrances on the main concourse level.

Comparisons have been made by supporters of the Libeskind scheme with the Louvre's Pyramid and the Eiffel Tower. Both of these are freestanding structures seen to great advantage from numerous points of view. Both are graceful in line and silhouette. By contrast, the Libeskind Spiral has only one main viewpoint, from the street.

where three substantial London plane trees, set to grow much taller, could obscure it.

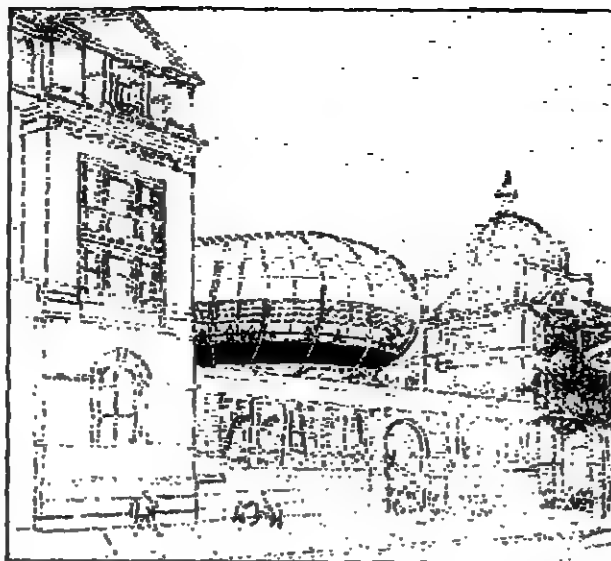
Since the competition, the V&A has woken up to the need to clean and conserve its buildings along Exhibition Road. The cleaning of the main Cromwell Road front revealed the positively Venetian combination of warm brick and white stone domes and campaniles, with Sir Aston Webb's personalised version of the Tomb of Halicarnassus, soaring over the main entrance.

If the buildings around the Boilerhouse courtyard are cleaned, they will be as spectacularly transformed as the main front. General Scott, designer of the Henry Cole building, has yet to be given a place in the pantheon of Victorian architecture but he deserves one. He was, after all, the architect of the mighty Albert Hall up the road.

Nobody has given the Boilerhouse courtyard a second glance for years, but it contains plenty of vigorous carving and detailing, as well as beautifully lit offices and galleries. It is a strange irony that just as lottery money is being used to clear the British Museum courtyard of 150 years of clutter, more lottery money is required for infill at the V&A. Though there could be exciting views from the Spiral to the surrounding buildings, the design, as shown on the model, is very solid at the lower levels, allowing few views out.

If more of the space were put underground, as Hopkins suggests, the Spiral could become less massive and more visible from the surrounding buildings as a freestanding object rather than a modern-day Mount Eiger, at points only a few feet from the windows. A less bulky building might also allow the Grade I listed Aston Webb screen to remain in place.

The £42 million sought for the Spiral is only one element of the current V&A master plan, which includes a £25 million bid for lottery funds to revamp the British Galleries and plans to move the library into the Henry Cole wing.



Firmly on the back burner: details of the rejected designs for the V&A's Boilerhouse courtyard submitted by (clockwise from top left) Michael Hopkins, Norman Foster, Nicholas Grimshaw, Eva Jiricna and Ian Ritchie

Before the V&A rockets into the lottery stratosphere, it is worth remembering that some of the proposed improvements could be carried out quite cheaply. Provision for a first-floor link between the Henry Cole wing and the British Galleries was made when the present Boilerhouse entrance was created, and opening a museum link to the tunnel leading to South Kensington Tube station requires little more than the removal of a padlock.

Victoria and Albert Museum, Cromwell Road, SW7 0ET (071-938 8800)

I'm driven by it, and also by being first, by new challenges. "I can remember the day before that *Messiah* 15 years ago, thinking: This is ridiculous, we'll never be able to play this on these instruments. We never dream we'd get as far as Beethoven, let alone anyone else."

One of his biggest challenges has been Wagner, both technically and because of the weight of tradition. "I'd been wanting to hear that sound in the *Parsifal* prelude for 20 years. It's got less to do with the instruments themselves than the spirit of the music, and one of the great things about early instruments is they give an innocence. In Wagner that reveals a Gothic purity, a central concept of the 19th century that we don't understand today."

Norrington has had invitations to do concert performances of *Tristan*. "They might come about, but we really ought to go to Bayreuth. That theatre was built to keep the orchestra down, at a time when orchestras were getting bigger. The thought of an authentic orchestra in an authentic theatre would be rather amazing."

He has taken the London Classical Players to do Bruckner in Linz, and now talks longingly of Tchaikovsky, even Ravel. "But the later we go the less we'll learn," he says. "I can't help feeling that we really are getting near the end of the road."

Norrington conducts *Má vlast* at the Guildhall Great Hall, London EC2, on Tuesday at 7.30pm. Booking for all City of London Festival events is through the Barbican Centre box office (071-636 6891)

Into the dark

JUST as his chief inspiration Dizzy Gillespie used to do, Arturo Sandoval paces his act carefully, beginning with an attention-grabbing solo over an irresistible Latin beat. He introduces new material in the heart of his set, and ends with an all-out jam.

On this occasion, however, the fate — in the form of the electricity company — had a surprise in store. Sandoval began, as planned, with a brisk opener in which his trumpet flared out over the rumbustious percussion of Egüé Castillo, then embarked on a selection of tunes from his forthcoming album.

Arturo Sandoval Ronnie Scott's

The first *Swinging*, paired his warm-toned flugelhorn, with Chip McNeil's *but*, grainy tenor at a relaxed mid-tempo. The second, *Latin Train* — or possibly *Trane* — featured a breakneck union theme from tenor and trumpet, a rattling piano solo from Chip Stephens, some typically exuberant timbales from Sandoval himself ... then darkness descended and suddenly it was Sandoval unplugged.

The emergency lighting enabled the show to go on, and Sandoval proved himself a genuine trouper by immediately calling for a trio version — necessarily acoustic — of *Body and Soul*, which allowed McNeil in particular to stretch out over the familiar chord sequence with rhapsodic intensity, and his leader to revert to deft, lucid flugelhorn. Since the band employs an electric bass, however, this was inevitably a short-term solution, and the stage was finally ceded to the acoustic quartet led by Dave O'Higgins.

CHRIS PARKER

New element in periodic table

Roger Norrington's repertory stretches from 1600 to 1950. He spends most of his time conducting modern orchestras, but is best known as a "period" specialist. It is a reflection of the enthusiasm he has brought to performances over 30 years, from when he first toured his amateur choir around Europe singing Schütz, through giving the first "period" *Messiah*, to exploring the 19th century, going — as far as Wagner.

More than any other, Norrington is responsible for the way in which historically informed performances are catching up with musical history, and he will break new ground again on Tuesday, when he and his London Classical Players launch the City of London Festival with Smetana's *Má vlast*.

Even without the gut strings and old-fashioned winds this would be a remarkable event: complete performances of all six tone poems making up Smetana's cycle are rare outside the Czech composer's homeland. But with typical boldness Norrington went to the Czech capital last month, to open the Prague Spring Festival with his orchestra.

MUSIC: How did Smetana become a recipient of a Roger Norrington makeover? John Allison reports



Norrington: "We're near the end of the road"

Má vlast ("My Country") has been the traditional curtain-raiser since the festival was founded 50 years ago, but this was the first time that completely foreign forces had played at the opening ceremony. So how did Norrington's invitation come about?

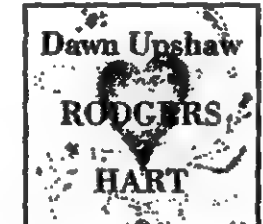
"It came from the Prague Spring directors," he says. "They'd been trying to get us for years. But they're short of

funds and we wouldn't have managed without our sponsorship from the stockbrokers ABN AMRO Hoare Govett. When I first discussed the project I was handed the scores and about nine Supraphon CDs, as if to say: 'Here you are, this is how you do it.' I don't think I listened to them all — it's a funny thing to do when you're asking somebody for a different performance. On the other hand, it's marvellous when a piece is revered like that."

The problem is that the scores have been changed a lot since Smetana's day, and only more recently fixed in amber. What they're perpetuating is not what he wrote — I've had a terrible job trying to get back to the original. The old way of doing it fitted in with the moribund communist state, but it's time to change attitudes now."

He approaches every composer with the same zest, and even modern orchestras — in addition to his regular work with the London Philharmonic, his engagements this year include the Vienna Philharmonic and Chicago Symphony — receive the full Norrington treatment. "It's tough on them, but it's the only way I operate. When I was young I tried to be respectable, but the great thing about getting older is you become more yourself. Music has to be fun for me. I can be quite calm, but when I hear music I start to dance. It agitates my senses."

HMV Classical Selection June



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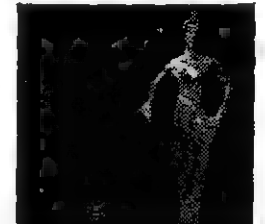
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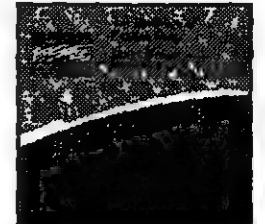
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CHOICE 1

Boublil and Schonberg unveil their Martin Guerre

VENUE: Now in preview at the Prince Edward

CHOICE 2

Curtain up on Hans Werner Henze's The Prince of Homburg

VENUE: Tomorrow at the London Coliseum

THE TIMES ARTS

THEATRE 1

At the Almeida
(Uncle) Vanya
gets a pretentious
and unsuccessful
rewrite from
Howard Barker

THEATRE 2

Was Shakespeare
gay? That is
the question
posed by Ten
Ruminations
at Riverside

LONDON

ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA: In a fitting tribute to Hans Werner Henze who was 70 this year, the Coliseum hosts a new production of his 1980 opera, *The Prince of Homburg*. Based on a play by Kleist, Ingoburg Bachmann's libretto explores an individual's struggle to relinquish his aristocratic individuality and accept the blind obedience demanded from him by a military regime. Peter Coleman-Wright sings the role of the prince, with Susan Bullock as his beloved princess Natalia of Orange. Nicolaus Lehmann directs. Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-832 8000) Tomorrow, 7.30pm.

MARTIN GUERRE: The latest Boublil and Schonberg musical, set to follow the success of *Les Mis* and *Miss Saigon*. Deirdre Donnelly directs a cast led by Ian Glen and Julie Gamble in a tale based on the true 16th-century story of love, war and identity. Prince Edward, Old Compton St, W1 (0171-754 0951) Preview from tonight, 7.45pm. Opens July 10, 7pm.

KERWOOD LAKESIDE: The opera-concert continues with *Landscapes in Sound*, an evening of exclusive music presented by the BBC Concert Orchestra. Barry Wordsworth leads the orchestra through Mendelssohn's overture to *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Beethoven's *Symphony No. 5* and Schubert's *String Quartet No. 14*. Kerwood Lakeside, 100, The Green, W1 (0171-754 0951) Preview from tonight, 7.45pm. Opens July 10, 7pm.

WEEKEND CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Mark Hargre

Kerwood Lakeside, Hampstead
Lena, NW5 (0171-344 4440) 14-15
14-15: Tomorrow, 7.30pm.

THE INVISIBLE WOMAN: Second in the new Playwrights Project series, set in a holiday inn. The *Mother-in-Law* by the Roman playwright Terence, set in a holiday inn. The *Mother-in-Law* by the Roman playwright Terence, set in a holiday inn. The *Mother-in-Law* by the Roman playwright Terence, set in a holiday inn.

ELSEWHERE
ALDERSBURGH: Two concerts are this weekend's pick of the bunch at Snape. Tonight's *Landscapes in Sound* is a fascinating programme of contemporary music, including a new work by Magnus Lindberg.

CHAPTER TWO: Tom Côté and Sharon Gless play unadorned New Yorkers whirling towards each other in Neil Simon's comedy. Not his best. Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-832 8000) Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 8.15pm; Sun, 7.30pm.

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

House full, returns only

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Bouncing a dud Chekhov

THEATRE

(Uncle) Vanya

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into the bedroom with her, though what happens there is unclear.

There is, I suppose, a certain amusement in watching characters escape the clutches of their original author. I have seen productions of *Hamlet* that left me wishing another playwright, even Barker, would intervene, allowing us all to go home early. But this time I hoped that stranger Sonya, hostess Vanya et al had more ambitious fantasies to fulfil. Why not time-warp to 1996 and make Barker take a long walk off a short pier?

That way, we would miss Vanya denouncing Sonya because "pity runs from you like snot from the nose of a sick child". We would miss the appearance of Chekhov himself in the form of a smug, mocking tyrant, and the nanny's denunciation of him as a "creeping priest". We would miss the scene in which the dramatist expires from TB, having transformed free, positive Ivan back into droopy, frightened Uncle Vanya. We would miss shallowness, didacticism, awful dialogue, self-conscious comedy and stilted acting. If only, if only!

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Drowning in the shallows: William Armstrong as Vanya and Victoria Wicks as Yelena in Howard Barker's pretentious (*Uncle*) Vanya

Thought for the gay

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POP 1

At the age of 52, Françoise Hardy relaunched her career with an album of soft rock



POP 2

... while Neil Young just about gets away with the loose collection that is *Broken Arrow*

THE TIMES ARTS



POP 3

Energy in abundance comes on the latest CD from the Mancunian trio, 808 State



POP 4

Neil Finn explains the break-up of Crowded House, just as their best hits are reissued

POP ALBUMS: Françoise Hardy's sexy cool has David Sinclair hot and bothered

Come on, kiss me, Hardy

FRANÇOISE HARDY

Le Danger (Virgin 7243 8 416612)

WITH the arguable exception of Vanessa Paradis, the unwritten rule which states that French acts do not succeed in Britain has more or less held good since Françoise Hardy enjoyed a modest string of hits here in the mid-1960s. In those days she was a ballad singer, whose gentle songwriting style would doubtless have chimed with the current vogue for easy listening.

But in making her comeback at the age of 52, Hardy has elected to place her sensuous voice and mysterious French lyrics in a contemporary soft-rock setting provided by two younger producer/songwriters, Rodolphe Burger and Alain Lubrano.

Somewhat against the odds, the result is an unusually beguiling album. Avoiding the siren and vamp stereotypes, yet still contriving to sound implausibly sexy, Hardy brings a unique sense of cool to songs such as *Zero Partout* and the bluesy title track, *Le Danger* is as chic as adult rock'n'roll gets.

BECK

Odelay (Geffen GED 24926)

THE Californian oddball whose 1994 hit, *Loser*, neatly distilled the dysfunctional teen spirit of America's Generation X, Beck is a man with an itchy trigger finger. *Odelay*, his third album in as many years, is another genre-crunching riot of ancient guitar sounds, modern beatbox rhythms, obscure crackling samples and semi-rap vocales hammered into rough shape by a hand that recognises no sonic or musical boundaries.

There are no typical tracks: *Novacane* mixes electronic beeps with the sludgiest of blues harmonicas; *Where Irs At* locates the point at which the Doors' organ sound meets the chanting chorus style of the Red Hot Chili Peppers; and *Lord Only Knows* boasts possibly the world's first re-

corded maracas solo. There is less blues and more funk in the mix than on previous outings, so connoisseurs of the quirky groove will love numbers such as *Sissneck* and *Derelict*. But, as an album, it does begin to sound a bit wilful once the novelty value wears off.

NEIL YOUNG WITH CRAZY HORSE

Broken Arrow (Reprise 9362-46291)

THERE is a fine line between loose and lazy, and it is one which Neil Young traverses several times on *Broken Arrow*. An eight-minute version of Jimmy Reed's blues standard, *Baby What You Want Me To Do* is a dismal display of self-indulgence. And you feel Young and Crazy Horse are pushing their luck with the meandering instrumental coda of *Loose Change*, a one-chord vamp on a quasi-Bo Diddley beat that stretches beyond the nine-minute mark. But there is a transcendent quality to Young's first-draft style that continues to lend an aura of magic to his work. With his high, battered voice swept along by clattery drum breaks and distorted splashes of guitar, *Slip Away* combines chaotic beauty with a sweeping sense of the inevitable. And, while the sprightly country-grunge of *Changing Highways* and gentle, nursery-rhyme lilt of *Scattered (Let's Think About Livin')* may have a throwaway feel, there are few rock acts capable of distilling such simple truths with such purity of expression.

808 STATE

Don Solaris (ZTT 0630-14356)

IT IS three years since 808 State's previous album, *Gorgeous*, and twice as long since the trio from Manchester first rose to prominence, an eternity in the world of modern dance music. But, if not quite at the cutting edge any more, their new album, *Don Solaris*, exudes a tremendous energy and drive.



In praise of older women: Sixties chanteuse Françoise Hardy is back, and beautiful

Their roots may lie in the house/trance music explosion of the 1980s, but there are now distinct jazz leanings in numbers such as *Joyrider* and *Azura*, in which singer Louise Rhodes proves a formidable substitute for one of 808 State's previous collaborators, Björk. Coming from a synthesizer group named after a drum machine, this is music with a reassuringly human touch.

TOP TEN INDIE ALBUMS

- 1 1977... Ash (Infectious)
- 2 (What's the Story) Morning Glory?... Oasis (Creation)
- 3 Definitely Maybe... Oasis (Creation)
- 4 The It Girl... Sleeper (Indolent)
- 5 At the End of the Cliché... Carl Cox (Ultimatum)
- 6 Paranoid & Sunburnt... Skunk Anansie (One Little Indian)
- 7 Second Toughest... Underworld (Junior Boy's Own)
- 8 The Light User Syndrome... Fall (Jag)
- 9 Expecting to Fly... Bluetones (Superior Quality)
- 10 Fuzzy Logic... Super Furry Animals (Creation)

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High-voltage electricity Bill

BILL FRISSELL

Quartet (Nonesuch 79401-2)

ALTHOUGH most of the 13 pieces on this album were originally written for films (Gary Larson's *Tales from the Far Side*, Buster Keaton's *Convict 13* and Daniele Luchetti's *La Scuola*), such is

JAZZ

the arranging skill of guitarist Bill Frisell that he entirely avoids the episodic heterogeneity usually associated with such projects.

His achievement is all the more remarkable given his

quartet's instrumentation: alongside Frisell's electric and acoustic guitars, Eyvind Kang doubles on violin and tuba, Ron Miles plays trumpet and Curtis Fowlkes trombone. Frisell exploits the band's considerable textural resources beautifully, Kang ranging between country-music hoe-

down and percussive plucking. Fowlkes and Miles vary their instruments' sounds where appropriate with judicious use of mutes and slurred or growling effects. Frisell himself alternately squeezing out a subdued howl or soaring above the band with cascading pyrotechnics.

The compositions range from straightforward lyrical melodies in close harmony, through skewwhiff Dixieland music, to strange, eerily floating atmospheric pieces, but the album coheres courtesy of Frisell's unifying musical vision and his abiding interest in the more esoteric aspects of Americana.

LEE MORGAN

Live at the Lighthouse (Blue Note CDP 7243 8 35228)

RECORDED just 19 months before trumpeter Morgan's untimely death at 33 — he was shot outside a nightclub — this is a no-holds-barred, good old-fashioned jam session, issued in its entirety for the first time.

Morgan served his apprenticeship in Dizzy Gillespie's big band and with Art Blakey's Jazz Messengers, and his playing has all the fleet, impassioned energy of the former packaged in the hard-bop style perfected by the latter. His infectious, accessible rhythmic drive, though, is all his own, and the hit on which it is most memorably showcased, *The Sidewinder*, is one of the many highlights of this robust but intensely musical collection. Morgan's sidemen, too — reedsman Bennie Maupin, pianist Harold Mabern, bassist Jymie Merrin and drummer Mickey Roker — put in committed, gutsy performances: as a record of how this first-class jazz outfit stretched out in a congenial venue, this set is hard to beat.

CHRIS PARKER

Alone and together

Crowded House are no longer. This is very bad news.

Neil Finn has bigger fish to fry. This is very good news

Most pop stars have jam for brains. They carry on years after they or their public have continued caring; and most of them have compromised themselves so badly by the age of 30 that the rest of their lives become embarrassing, telling *Hello!* and the Sunday supplements "My music can no longer ease my life, or make it more joyful and thrilling — but here are my soft furnishings and lovely wife and children. I hope this amuses you, because this is all I can do now — amuse you."

Not Neil Finn. Having broken up Split Enz, the band he and his brother Tim took to fairly respectable success with glorious songs such as *Six Days in a Leaky Boat* and *Message To My Girl*, Neil didn't just sit back for three years and then wait for a handy reunion tour to please his bank manager. He went on to form Crowded House, one of the pop world's most life-affirming bands. Indeed, no less a pop-picker than the Queen indicated that she, too, had been thrilled by *Weather With You*, *World Where You Live* and *Don't Dream It's Over*, by appointing Finn an OBE in 1993. His life was orderly, successful, and good.

And then, with Crowded House about to release their long-overdue *Best Of* album, Neil Finn broke up the band. He didn't put out a couple of dodgy albums while he was making up his mind, or milk another tour on the back of the *Best Of*. He broke them up, just like that.

"Well, you always give these things the benefit of the doubt," Finn says, leaning back in his chair. With him in his hotel room are an acoustic guitar and a small Polynesian zither. Every so often, he absently brushes his fingers along the neck of the guitar — as if he'd rather be singing this interview than talking it. "The last two years seemed to be leading up to it, but I wanted to make doubly sure that I was absolutely right. My body started telling me that things weren't right. I would have a fit clenching at my guts every time I even talked about the band. I started worrying about the compromises we'd made along the way — the production being too neat on the last album, that kind of thing."

This is the niggle of a perfectionist. *Together Alone*, the House's last non-greatest hits album, was pretty left

field for a band often mistakenly tagged AOR. Maori choirs, oblique lyrics and a swampy, misty feeling of "otherness" pervade what was probably the House's finest album. "I think it was our best one too," Finn says. "When we started compiling the *Best Of*, I wanted eight songs from *Together Alone*. But we put out a mixture — what the fans wanted, what we wanted."

Together Alone was a distinct if logical progression from the House's previous

finally get on with this Other stuff, the stuff I feel in my guts to be right.

"The weird thing was that the songs seemed to know I was going to break up the band before I did — I wrote *Instinct* still thinking we'd be touring this year, and if you read the lyrics it's almost like the song was telling me to finish it now, before we became bad or joyless or flat."

So now this generation's most consistently brilliant songwriter is planning his third creative rebirth in as many decades. "New Zealand has no real identity — certainly no globally recognised musical identity," Finn says. "Our history is a strange, oral one. Apparently, before the Maoris, a race lived in peace in New Zealand for a hundred thousand years. They claimed they came from the stars and would return to the stars. They say there are still members of this race living in secret in NZ, and they will emerge again. So ours is a still unformed country. We don't have a massive deadweight of tradition and history to live up to, like you do in Britain."

"I want to make something completely new, taking the Polynesian and Pacific rhythms and sounds and adding them to the music that is in my head when I wake. I want to make something that's..."

Finn gestures helplessly to his guts, and then to his heart, before resting his eyes on the little jewel-like zither on the table in front of him.

● Recurring Dream — The Best of Crowded House is out on Monday



CAITLIN MORAN

work. Recorded in an isolated house on Kare Kare beach — you know, that huge stretch of gorgeousness in *The Piano* — it showed Crowded House seemingly on the verge of a new kind of music, something as wide and blue as the Pacific Ocean. And this was another factor in the band's demise.

"It was almost like I had two lives," Finn says. "I was constantly writing songs, but I had to sort them out into Crowded House songs, and Others. The day I decided to break up the band, it was like an enormous beast had been lifted off my back — I could



So, farewell, then, Crowded House. Everywhere they went, they always took the best of weather with them

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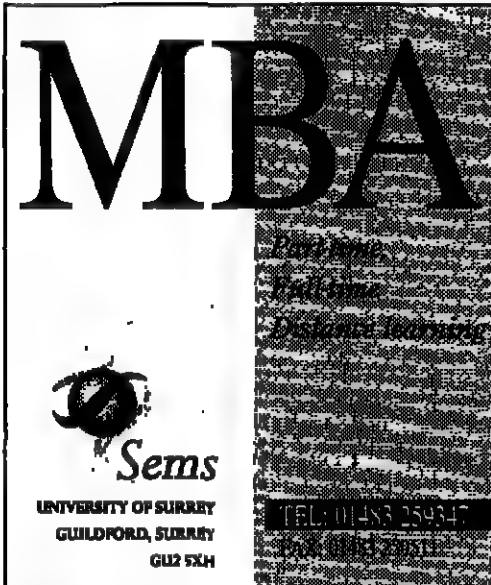
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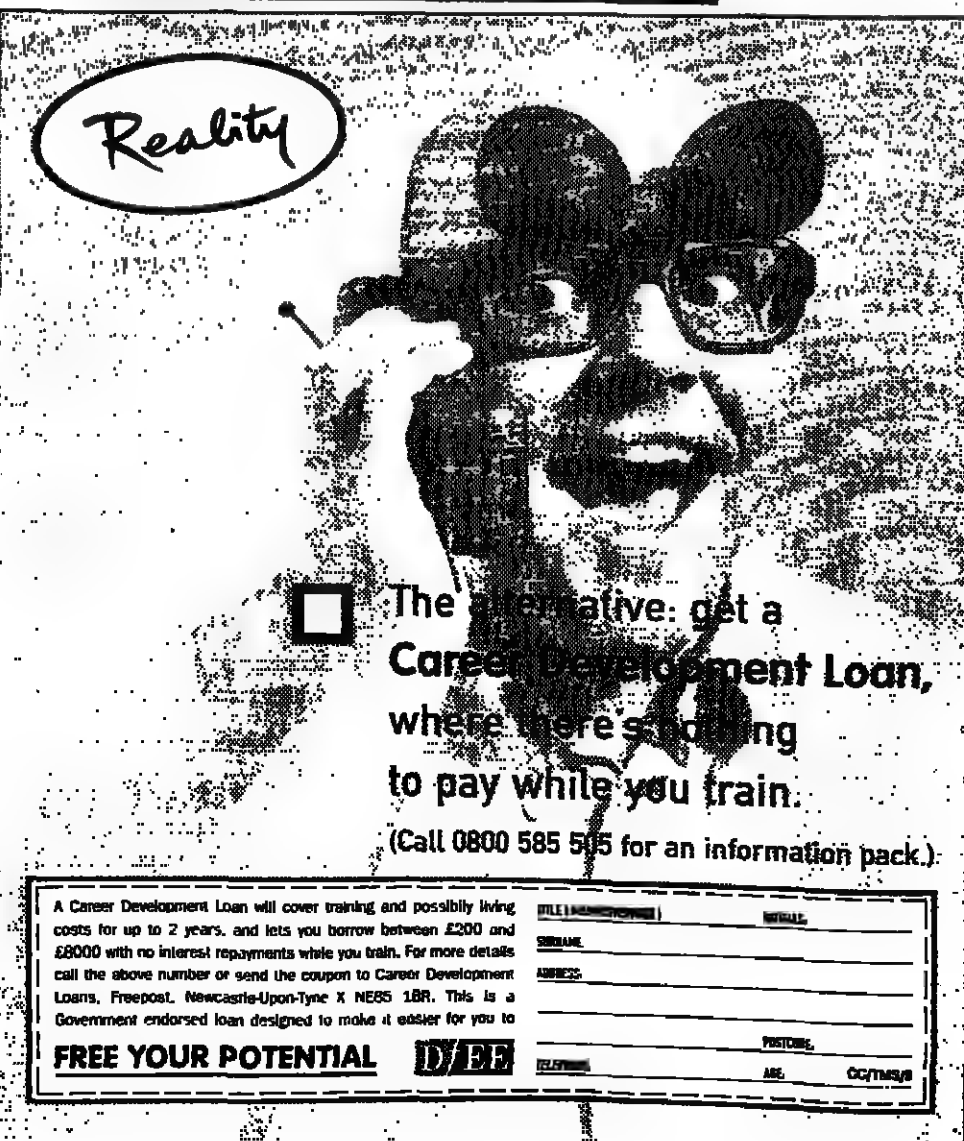
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EDUCATION

Robin Alexander questions the new orthodoxy on whole-class teaching in primary schools

Politicians still passing the primary school buck

History seems to be repeating itself. Just as in 1991, there is a general election round the corner, a convenient report on primary education, a *Panorama* programme to provide media gravitas, a government initiative to stop the rot, and an anxious academic worried that his work is being misquoted and misrepresented.

In 1991, I was the anxious academic with a report on primary schools in Leeds and the "grand initiative" was the so-called "Three Wise Men's report. Otherwise, the scenario was pretty well the same, right down to the "trendy teachers", "back to basics" headlines.

There are other differences, of course. This time there are two studies for politicians to get their teeth into, not one: the International School Effectiveness Research Project (ISERP) directed by David Reynolds, this year's anxious academic, and the Gatsby-funded action research project on primary school mathematics involving the National Institute for Economic and Social Research and the local authority in Barking and Dagenham. And in contrast to 1991-92, when the Opposition had nothing to say, Labour is very much in on the act.

In fact, a rather bizarre consensus has emerged, as political Right and Left jockey for control of ideological territory hitherto held uncontested by the Right. Speaking as one, the Secretary of State, her Shadow and the Chief Inspector of Schools instruct primary teachers to abandon existing practices and adopt whole-class teaching strategies used in Taiwan, Switzerland, Germany and The Netherlands. Chris Woodhead, one of my fellow "wise men", even put a figure on it: 60 per cent of classroom time for mathematics and 50 per cent for the rest of the curriculum.

But the big difference now is that the debate about primary education has become a global, rather than a merely national one. Britain's performance in the international league tables of economic and educational performance continues to slide downwards, especially in relation to parts of Europe and the Pacific Rim. At the same time, we are told that there is a conclusive causal relationship between this decline and the teaching methods used in our primary schools. Hence Taiwan, Zurich, Barking and Dagenham, and Mr

Woodhead's figure of 60 per cent. I, for one, warmly welcome the policymakers' recognition that we can learn much by studying how other countries approach the task of primary education. But we need to couple this enthusiasm with close attention to four problems: the technical difficulties of making valid international comparisons of tests and educational achievement; the dangers of claiming simple cause and effect between specific classroom practices and national economic outcomes; the hazards of "cultural borrowing", especially in the transplanting of the continental version of whole-class teaching; and the way whole-class teaching itself has become a political talisman or cure-all without prior examination of how and when it works.

Thus, for example, Professor Reynolds's ISERP review of international educational performance, to be published by Ofsted next month, makes very clear its concern about the technical flaws in the international test data: poor sampling, missing data, excessively variable response rates and lack of comparability in test items and procedures.

The problem of cause and effect is even trickier. Teaching, fortunately, does make a difference. But the ISERP properly cautions us that it can offer only speculations on the relationship between teaching methods and "outcome" measures of the kind used in international test programmes. In any case, though it is politically expedient to present the relationship between educational processes and economic or educational outcomes as a simple and linear one, surely nobody in their right mind would doubt that things are much more complex than that. As the "Three Wise Men" report said in 1992: "If things have gone wrong... then scapegoating is not the answer. All those responsible for delivering and administering our system of primary education need to look at the part they may have played."

The current argument over whole-class teaching can go whichever way you like because, like the curriculum dominance of the basics of literacy and numeracy, whole-class teaching is practically universal in primary education. Thus, internationally, it correlates

Taiwanese children in the *Panorama* programme, proving the benefits side of whole-class teaching

with low achievement as closely as with high, and with low GDP/GNP as surely as with economic prosperity and competitiveness. It is a vital part of the teacher's repertoire, but so is effectively-conducted group work and so are the generic skills of all teaching methods, from planning to explaining, managing time, space and behaviour, and giving feedback. Most important of all, perhaps, is establishing the climate and relationships within which the impact of skills can be maximised.

What, then, is whole-class teaching?

A bizarre consensus has emerged, as the Right and Left jockey for control of ideological territory

Firstly, it is an organisational device: that of working on a single task with all the pupils at the same time. But it comes in many versions, and only some of them involve the archetype of the teacher standing at the front and the children sitting in rows. My own current research, in primary classrooms in England, France, Russia, India and the United States, has demonstrated the variety, as well as the ubiquity, of this method.

However, even more critical than the mode of organisation is the quality and character of the dis-

course between teacher and pupil (and this, of course, applies to every teaching method). The discourse can structure learning into high hurdles to stretch the very able minority, or (the classic continental approach) small steps which will ensure success for the majority. Like discourse everywhere, the classroom version varies enormously in pace, richness and effectiveness.

Politicians speak of "interactive whole-class teaching", but that may be less of a revolution than it seems because pretty well all teaching is already interactive. It is the nature of the interaction, as British classroom researchers have pointed out for years, which matters most.

The third dimension of whole-class teaching is attended to even less in the current debate. Whatever the purpose and manner of this or her interaction, the teacher is conveying values and expectations, for example of appropriate behaviour, the nature of knowledge, how ideas should be handled, what counts as achievement in learning, and how adults and children should relate to each other.

If you set these dimensions against what research tells us about how children learn most effectively, then you have to acknowledge that important though efficient organisation is, the power and quality of the discourse and the nature of the values matter even more. A teaching method can be

imported from one classroom or one country to another readily enough, but the discourse cannot be imported because it is so deeply rooted both in individual knowledge and competence, and in a country's culture and history. Whole-class teaching that so impresses us in many European countries for its lively, rapid and searching discourse, says far more about how people in those countries use language than it does about the efficiency of their teachers' training.

We must strive to raise the standards of teaching and learning in our primary schools. But let's acknowledge that many teachers already use whole-class teaching, that the diversity of classroom circumstances demands a mixture of methods, and that it is deeper layers of professional skill that we should be attending. Simply imitating the external forms of a method used successfully elsewhere, or offering crude and arbitrary injunctions of the "60 per cent whole-class teaching" variety will get us nowhere, except to ensure that we replace one fad by another.

Professor Alexander heads Warwick University's Centre for Research in Elementary and Primary Education, was a member of the 1992 government inquiry into primary school teaching and is a consultant to the Gatsby Project in Barking and Dagenham. The full text of the lecture from which this article is taken is available from CREPE, Warwick University, Coventry CV4 7AL.

Why can't we learn English?

The proposals for more grammar teaching are long overdue

DO YOU remember Fowler? In my 1931 edition of *The King's English*, he painstakingly details the difference between a walking-stick and a walking stick. Now there was a man who knew and cared about grammatical accuracy. It is a good job he cannot hear today's BBC announcers beginning sentences with floating adverbs, such as "Hopefully, the rain will hold off".

He would have condemned the near ubiquitous "Jane and myself went to London" or "who does this belong to?". Then there are all those muddles where the writer has such a sketchy knowledge of syntax that he or she lacks the confidence to use a full-stop, and instead uses a comma every three or four words like a decorative motif. Enough said.

Grammatical illiteracy is infectious. Teachers — at least those under 40 or so — are cheerfully passing on their grammatical ignorance to pupils every day. Look at almost any school staffroom noticeboard for examples of teachers' casual writing. You cannot teach what you do not know.

Then there are all the solecisms we see and hear. Habits are caught fast. Grammatical inaccuracy is a huge — and potentially insuperable — pestilence.

I earn the major part of my living from fashioning language on paper. If I did not understand how sentences should be formed and shaped in theory as well as in practice, I doubt I could write anything that anyone would want to read, let alone pay me for.

Anne Barnes, of the National Association for the Teaching of English, admitted this week to "paraphrasing sentences" at school in the early 1960s. She deemed it "useless" when it comes to writing effectively. In fact she is, of course, a good example of someone who now writes unwittingly well because of the basic training she received in English grammar. I bet she thinks in grammatical terms too. Why does she wish to deny today's schoolchildren the same advantages?

Gillian Shephard, the Secretary of State for Education, is right to express concern at this week's damning report from the University of Southampton on

grammatical illiteracy — but surely it didn't tell us anything we didn't know? Now we are promised new English tests for 14-year-olds which will take account of their grammar, as if, at a stroke, that will solve the problem. If only it were that simple.

Spelling and punctuation are already supposed to be credited in such tests, but it is rather vague and loose. Merely allocating a few extra discretionary marks for "good grammar" won't make an iota of difference. The only measure that might work is a formal grammar paper, requiring candidates to construct sentences to given patterns, to form adjectives from noun roots, to supply appropriate prepositions for gaps in sentences and so on.

If teachers are to prepare students for this, there will have to be a massive in-service training programme to equip teachers themselves with the knowledge. It shouldn't stop at English teachers, either. Grammar is so fundamental that every teacher should be conversant with it and able to reinforce it continuously.

How clearly I remember, from the age of about 12, being taught by my religious education teacher that "prophecy" is a noun but "prophesy" is a verb. It was an historian who explained to me that the word "peninsular" in "Peninsular War" is an adjective, and must therefore end in "r". It was "language across the curriculum" with a vengeance. Although it was during the 1960s, my grammar school resisted the winds of "liberalism".

AS AN adult, I have sat in many a school staffroom and heard teachers of subjects other than English be quite open and casual — almost boastful — about their grammatical shortcomings. "I'm a scientist so I don't have to worry about any of that," I recently heard one say.

As the almost forgotten Kingman report of 1988 into the teaching of English language made clear, an onslaught on teacher training is our only hope. Yet I doubt we shall ever recapture the finely honed rigour advocated by Fowler. It is our loss.

VIEWPOINT



SUSAN ELKINN

Bullying begins at home

After a decade attempting to reduce the incidence of bullying in schools and the workplace, academics have now turned their attention to the nursery. A leading research unit has decided that it is between the ages of three to seven that the seeds are sown.

Delwyn and Eva Tatum, of the Countering Bullying Unit (CBU) in Cardiff, believe that changing behaviour at this stage can prevent subsequent bullying at junior and secondary level. The number of reported incidents decreases as pupils grow older, but CBU's figures indicate that 25 per cent of children claim to have been verbally or physically bullied during their nursery or infant years.

To alert everyone to the problem, the Tatums are developing a blueprint that shows how to deal with, and how to avoid creating, a new generation of bullies. The guideline, *Bullying In The Early Years*, is being drawn up in partnership with the Gulbenkian Foundation. It will be published in the autumn.

"Parents have a vital role," Mr Tatum says. "If parents are poor role models, behaving aggressively, abusively or violently, children accept that as normal and treat their classmates in the same way. And if the children find they can get away with intimidating others, they will continue."

Both teachers and parents, therefore, have to dissuade children from behaving aggressively. Instead of fighting others, children should be taught to respect their fellows. That respect should extend to other children's possessions, and to understanding the importance of sharing one's possessions with others.

When such lessons are learnt and implemented, the

New research suggests violence starts at nursery age



Children need role models

CBU recommends that children should be rewarded. "When parents and teachers respect a child, the likelihood is that the child will grow up to respect others. At this age, kindness is contagious."

Nursery and infant schools can easily pinpoint potential bullies. They seek attention, physically kick, hit or pinch their classmates and get satisfaction from hurting others. Intent is very significant in defining bullying. This is how the CBU distinguishes it from both bossiness and boisterous play. Teachers and lunchtime supervisors need to be aware of the distinction so that they can intervene.

The picture is not always clear, however. One South Wales six-year-old was beaten and kicked black and blue by his classmates, but they claimed that they were only acting out *Power Ranger*

scenes they had seen on TV. Eva Tatum urges parents to monitor young children's TV viewing. "Cartoons for example can often be violent, and they present that violence as fun. Parents need to be there to explain that in real life it is not fun. It hurts."

Identifying victims is not always as easy as pinpointing perpetrators. Even at the age of four, victims can be reluctant to report incidents. Getting them to do so lies at the heart of the Tatum strategy for helping victims. "They have to understand that reporting isn't the same as telling tales."

One case they came across was a four-year-old boy who developed leg pains whenever it was time to go to nursery. Visits to the GP and a paediatrician revealed that nothing was wrong, but it took a long time for the boy to confide that he was being bullied. Two classmates tormented him, pulling his hair, pinching him and hiding his lunchbox and pencils so that he would be chastised by the teacher.

Trying to get victims into trouble is fairly common among bullies of this age. Nursery teachers are also advised not to pinpoint children's weakness in public. Many cases of bullying stem from such assertions. A child labelled clumsy by the teacher is soon the butt of name-calling classmates.

"All nurseries should have a written anti-bullying policy," says Mr Tatum. "The new curriculum emphasising social and moral education for four-year-olds should help to reduce incidents. Teachers, parents and pupils must work together if they want to eliminate bullying in nursery and infant schools."

IOLA SMITH

Temping is a summer job for both men and women

Many students will spend their summer working off an overdraft. Casual work is notoriously poorly paid. But if, like many undergraduates, you have keyboard skills, secretarial employment agencies will pay up to £10 an hour if your fingers are quick and your clothes are smart.

Office temping does not exclude men. If it is pride stopping male students from doing "women's work", they can always call their local fast-food restaurant or approach the nearest building site, although turning burgers will not pay much more than £3.50 an hour and construction work is not as well paid as it was, or as easy to get.

A typing speed of 50 words a minute is generally the minimum, though some temps sneak through the door with 35/40wpm. Shorthand is useful though not essential. More important is an ability to take the initiative, be organised and have a sense of humour, as well as a thick skin (administrative staff often have to put up with appalling rudeness).

Before you begin door-stepping employment agencies, spend some time on a CV. Keep it to one page if possible (an agency will want your typing speed, the word-processing packages with which you are familiar and how close you live to their clients — they are not greatly interested in your academic potential, however brilliant).

Once you have signed up to an agency, call twice every day. There will be plenty of other students willing to work, so keep in contact. When a job arrives the agency will need to fill it fast. If Jill/Jane/Sue — almost always women — cannot remember who you are your phone will not ring. Do not just sign on with one or two. Register with six and your chances of securing work

The keys to paying off the overdraft



will burgeon. It is easy to become reliant on just one agency because a) you got on well with the person who interviewed you and b) they said they would find you work quickly and you weren't too worried. Almost all the agencies will say that — they would rather you sat by the phone ready to zip to a job than be out looking for work on which they cannot earn commission.

Many companies ask an agency for a typist who can "do audio-typing". Do not worry, it is simple. You sit in front of a word-processor wearing headphones while your feet prod a pair of pedals below — one for "play" and the other for "stop". The machine plays and you tap in what's being said (and the speed of the tape can be adjusted to your typing speed).

Word processing packages are all pretty similar (the

differences are smaller than people would have you believe). Most of the Windows packages work on the same "icon" principle, so fret not if you are familiar with one and not the other. Visit the library and mug up on the differences or spend some time at the agency on "cross-over" training, sitting in the agency's back room while a computer guides you through the basics of a program. Many agencies do not charge for this service.

You will earn more cash if you can slug your way through more specialist programs such as *PowerPoint* (a presentation package), *Excel* (spreadsheet) and *QuarkXpress* or *PageMaker* (desktop publishing).

When on the job be careful what you talk about. There will be moments in your day so lacklustre that speculating aloud on your future prospects might seem entertaining. This may need a permanent member of staff who has worked in the same office for years who has not had your chances. If you (unwittingly) antagonise them they will find at least 100 ways of making your summer miserable.

On the positive side you will have upped your typing speed and knowledge of word processing packages and learnt how to keep records together. Not the most exciting skill, admittedly, but if you have vowed to acquire a filing cabinet by the time you graduate, the experience will not have been wasted.

Whole lives have been changed by such an investment. You will also have reduced your overdraft and — with a bit of luck — reached the beach well before the burger turners, porwashers and anyone else who's had to sweat through the summer heat on £3.50 an hour (or less).

ADRIAN HOLLIDAY

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RACING: ST LEGER WINNER DEPLOYS SUPERIOR PACE AGAINST DOUBLE TRIGGER'S STAMINA

Classic Cliche speeds to cup success

By RICHARD EVANS, RACING JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

COURAGE and the will to win are wonderful attributes in a thoroughbred racehorse, but at the highest level such admirable qualities are rarely a match for sheer class. And so it proved at Royal Ascot yesterday when Classic Cliche became the first classic winner since 1945 to win the Gold Cup.

In a memorable race which captivated the spectators who packed the stands on Ladies' Day, Double Trigger was sent off a 2-1 favourite to repeat his success in the stayers' crown 12 months before. However, the punters' money carried by this most gallant of horses, including one bet re-

RICHARD EVANS
Nag: MR BERGERAC
(3.45 Royal Ascot)
Next best: Oscar Schindler
(3.05 Royal Ascot)

puted to be £100,000, was nothing compared to the level of expectation which had reached Desert Orchid proportions by the time the seven-runner field set off on the 2½-mile trip.

As Double Trigger set a steady but far from exhausting pace, all looked well for favourite backers as the field left Swinley Bottom and prepared for the testing final seven-furlong climb to the line. Double Trigger, enthusiastic as ever, was in his preferred position towing his rivals along, but as he passed the half-mile marker those behind still looked to be travelling ominously well, especially Classic Cliche, last year's impressive St Leger winner, who eventually drifted out to 3-1 in the betting exchanges.

Had Jason Weaver, rider of Double Trigger, kept something up his sleeve for the final



Classic Cliche, right, delivers a decisive challenge to Double Trigger, centre, in the Gold Cup at Royal Ascot yesterday

surge? Or had he set too slow a pace and not used his horse's almost limitless stamina to run his rivals into the ground? Racing's jury will no doubt debate the issue in the days to come but the outcome was inevitable as Michael Kinane pulled out Classic Cliche to deliver a well-timed challenge just before the furlong pole. The race developed into a

sprint, and there could be only one winner.

Within a matter of strides, the Godolphin-owned colt showed class and acceleration to put Double Trigger in his place and, despite hanging to the left inside the final 100 yards, only the length of the winning margin was in doubt. Kinane, one of the best tactical riders, told Sheikh Moham-

med: "They did not go too quick, so I had the speed at the end of the race."

Having confirmed the belief of Sheikh Mohammed that he would stay the Gold Cup distance, Classic Cliche will now return to races around 1½ miles rather than contest the other Cup races. The Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe is likely to be the end-of-season target.

Given that the four-year-old is even more effective on softer ground and almost guaranteed a strong pace at Longchamp, even at this stage the 25-1 offer from Coral is too tempting to refuse. Significantly, Ladbrokes offer only 10-1.

Almost two decades have passed since Sheikh Mohammed first dipped his toe into

the tempting waters of British racing. Yesterday must have proved one of the most enjoyable occasions so far as the Maktoum family and their entourage completed a near clean sweep on the third day of Royal Ascot, winning the first five races.

While Classic Cliche's heart-warming success will deservedly capture the headlines, the victory with the most significant implications for the future was that of Shamikh in the Chesham Stakes.

Carrying the colours of Hamdan Al Maktoum, the two-year-old comes under the Godolphin umbrella and spent the winter in Dubai. Running for the first time, the Unfuwain colt showed an excellent turn of foot to land the spoils and earn ante-post quotes for next season's classics.

"There are some others as good as him," Sheikh Mohammed said, referring to other Godolphin two-year-olds now in Newmarket. The latest Godolphin experiment looks to be succeeding.

The André Fabre-trained Tulpia coped surprisingly well with the fast ground to land the Ribblesdale Stakes for fillies over a mile and half, while Arafat took full advantage of a plum draw near the stands' rail to win the Cork and Orrery Stakes. The most impressive victory of the day, however, came from the speedy Topsy Creek in the Norfolk Stakes.

Ben Hanbury, the colt's affable trainer, had the decency to inform the needy and greedy prior to yesterday's race that the Dayjur colt was the fastest two-year-old he had ever trained. Despite being badly drawn on the far side of the track, he overcame the disadvantage with a devastating burst of speed over the final two furlongs to win by a length and land some hefty bets, including one of £28,000-58,000.

Form students see endeavours watered down

JULIAN MUSCAT



at Royal Ascot

A HUGE bonfire should have raged against the damp Asot air as upwards of 76,000 racegoers snaked their way home yesterday through the narrow routes leading from the course. Form books, racecards, Timeform guides and betting tickets are highly combustible; they should all have been tossed onto the inferno.

They were certainly no help in finding winners. A near infallible system had emerged from the debris of Tuesday and Wednesday. And it extended to yesterday as winners flowed from horses drawn close to the stands' rail. Most races on the straight course were over before they started.

Those allocated high stalls positions might just as well have stayed at home. After three days there were but two exceptions, most notably Topsy Creek, who defied his berth in stall 11 to land the Norfolk Stakes yesterday. Topsy Creek's trainer, Ben Hanbury, made no bones about the size of his colt's task.

"I walked the track this morning with Nick Cheyne, the clerk of the course, and the ground was definitely much faster by the stands' rail," Hanbury testified. "I was very worried about the draw. The runners split into two groups and I was terrified when I saw that happen. You can imagine how I relieved it was when it all worked out."

David Morley, whose Arafat restored the status quo in the Cork and Orrery Stakes, was more diplomatic. "I was delighted to see my horse in stall two because most of the winners have come down the stands' side," he said. "There seems to be an advantage."

Cruelly, some of the hottest favourites this week have been drawn high. Deadly Dudley, who attracted two bets of £10,000 when 7-4 favourite for the Coventry Stakes, floundered from stall eight, while Belgravia — even shorter at 6-4 — sunk from stall nine in the Chesham Stakes. And more of the winners have been compounded by her drawing stall 14 when a 5-2 chance for the Queen Mary Stakes.

Meanwhile, eagle-eyed punters could have baited in champagne. The Irish challenger Vergias, drawn three, took the Coventry at 9-1; Dance Parade, drawn two, the Queen Mary at 8-1; Lucayan Prince, drawn two, the Jersey Sikes at a cork-popping 50-1; and, Yes, drawn three, the Royal Hunt Cup at 8-1. Yesterday's triumph neatly summarised

the effects of the draw. Pursued by a pack of 30, strong, Yeast was chased home by Tertium (stall two), Crumpton Hill (one) and Donna Viola (four).

Any American visitor accustomed to racing in his own country would have made a mint. The priority for racegoers across "the Pond" is to establish such facts immediately on arrival. For all the groundsmen's efforts, it is not unusual for faster strips to prevail and American punters are quick to latch on.

A similar bias unfolded with the Guinness meeting at Newmarket last month, when horses racing down the centre of the track were hopelessly compromised. Angry backers blamed the antiquated watering system, but no such excuses can be levelled at the Ascot executive. Last week, the racing pages featured pictures of an array of jets from a £40,000 machine that could not, apparently, distribute its contents unevenly on Ascot's sacred sward.

Fortunately, Royal Ascot is enacted over four days. Today represents the last chance saloon for hard-pressed punters, and bookmakers can expect a deluge of support for horses drawn among the low numbers. The Wokingham Stakes, a two-furlongs, shorter, 30-runner version of the Royal Hunt Cup, holds out large potential for monster dividends on forecasts and trusts.

RICHARD EVANS
JULIAN MUSCAT

Chester win puts Oscar Schindler on shortlist

2.30: The stalls positions of Vax Star and Cathedral could militate against these promising types — a low draw seems essential with the free-running Cavalier Royale in stall five. Form lines suggest that Cavalier Royale is superior to Melikash and Bride's Reprisal, but his stablemate, Taufan Rookie, is preferred. Taufan Rookie overflew with potential when second to Abou Zouz on his Newmarket debut. That was a rock-solid effort and he is sure to go well. Lamorna's winning debut came over an extra furlong but the unraced Dazzle would be worth a saver if attracting market support. A well-bred filly, Dazzle is well thought of at home.

3.05: If sufficient rain arrived to make the ground good or softer, Election Day would be a strong fancy. However, the progressive Sadler's Wells colt may struggle if the going remains on the fast side, especially as he is coming back in trip after

winning the Aston Park Stakes at Newbury in taking style. Oscar Schindler impressed enormously when winning the Ormonde Stakes at Chester, travelling strongly behind the leaders before quickening well in the straight to hold the fast-finishing Election Day. Kevin Prendergast's improving colt should be even more effective on this galloping track and will take all the beating. Annus Mirabilis has some high-class form to his name but is becoming disappointing.

3.45: With the first four home in the Royal Hunt Cup drawn in the lowest four stalls there is clear evidence of a faster strip near the stands' rail. If Averti had a favourable draw, he would have been a confident choice. Always highly regarded by Willie Muir, he lost his way last year but was found to have a breathing problem and, after an operation, put up arguably his best performance at

TODAY'S RACES AT ROYAL ASCOT
Lingfield 20 days ago when not fully would up. He should still be thereabouts, but preference is for Mr Bergerac, who looks well treated judged on last year's form. He made an encouraging seasonal debut at Salisbury ten days ago. Espartaco, Jayanneppe and, in particular, Double Bounce merit close attention, while Madly Sharp should be suited by the strongly-run race.

4.20: Royale Figurine was a strong each-way fancy until she was drawn on the far side. The Craig Pearman-owned mare is still improving, judged on her good third in the Duke of York Stakes, and has been lying at home. Assuming the bias in favour of low drawn runners remains, Mind Games will also face a tough task,

especially as there is plenty of pace near the stands' rail. Royal Applause has always looked champion sprinter material and, after his stamina limitations were exposed in the 2,000 Guineas, Barry Hills's runner can begin to make up for lost time.

4.55: Shayton looks attractive after his staying on third to Shamikh in the Derby at Epsom. However, that gallant effort, just 13 days ago, may have left its mark on the colt. John Gosden's representative was also comfortably beaten by Legal Right at Chester last month. Legal Right subsequently finished more than four lengths adrift of Prize Giving in a false-run race at Goodwood, but this longer trip and stiffer track will serve him much better. One who appeals is Germasoo, who was undeniably rusty at Doncaster on his first run for seven months. Geoff Wragg's horse is bred for middle distances and should step up considerably on his achievements to date. Don Vito, who is well bred, faces much stronger opponents than when scoring with ease at Pontefract nine weeks ago.

5.30: Speed To Lead benefited from forcing tactics when winning at Goodwood, when Ivor's Flutter, now 13lb worse off, finished five lengths back in third. She shapes like a thorough stayer, is favourably treated by the conditions and should prove hard to beat. Admiral's Well and Old Rouvel have kept better company than the selection. Old Rouvel looks the bigger danger based on his third in the Ascot Gold Cup last year but has been lightly raced since. Juyush is stepping up markedly in trip and is not sure to last home, while Baharnian Sunshine finished well at last time.

ROYAL ASCOT

THUNDERER

2.30 Taufan Rookie
3.05 Oscar Schindler
3.45 Double Bounce

4.20 Pivotal
4.55 LEGAL RIGHT (nap)
5.30 Admiral's Well

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 4.20 MIND GAMES.
Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.30 Dazzle.
3.45 PRINCE SABAR (nap), 4.55 Prize Giving.

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

102 (12) 0-4122 000 TIMES 74 (C/D) (F/L) (S) (M) (P) (R) (S) (T) (U) (V) (W) (X) (Y) (Z) (AA) (AB) (AC) (AD) (AE) (AF) (AG) (AH) (AI) (AJ) (AK) (AL) (AM) (AN) (AO) (AP) (AQ) (AR) (AS) (AT) (AU) (AV) (AW) (AX) (AY) (AZ) (BA) (BB) (BC) (BD) (BE) (BF) (BG) (BH) (BI) (BJ) (BK) (BL) (BM) (BN) (BO) (BP) (BQ) (BR) (BS) (BT) (BU) (BV) (BW) (BX) (BY) (BZ) (CA) (CB) (CC) (CD) (CE) (CF) (CG) (CH) (CI) (CJ) (CK) (CL) (CM) (CN) (CO) (CP) (CQ) (CR) (CS) (CT) (CU) (CV) (CW) (CX) (CY) (CZ) (DA) (DB) (DC) (DD) (DE) (DF) (DG) (DH) (DI) (DJ) (DK) (DL) (DM) (DN) (DO) (DP) (DQ) (DR) (DS) (DT) (DU) (DV) (DW) (DX) (DY) (DZ) (EA) (EB) (EC) (ED) (EE) (EF) (EG) (EH) (EI) (EJ) (EK) (EL) (EM) (EN) (EO) (EP) (EQ) (ER) (ES) (ET) (EU) (EV) (EW) (EX) (EY) (EZ) (FA) (FB) (FC) (FD) (FE) (FF) (FG) (FH) (FI) (FJ) (FK) (FL) (FM) (FN) (FO) (FP) (FQ) (FR) (FS) (FT) (FU) (FV) (FW) (FX) (FY) (FZ) (GA) (GB) (GC) (GD) (GE) (GF) (GG) (GH) (GI) (GJ) (GK) (GL) (GM) (GN) (GO) (GP) (GQ) (GR) (GS) (GT) (GU) (GV) (GW) (GX) (GY) (GZ) (HA) (HB) (HC) (HD) (HE) (HF) (HG) (HH) (HI) (HJ) (HK) (HL) (HM) (HN) (HO) (HP) (HQ) (HR) (HS) (HT) (HU) (HV) (HW) (HX) (HY) (HZ) (IA) (IB) (IC) (ID) (IE) (IF) (IG) (IH) (II) (IJ) (IK) (IL) (IM) (IN) (IO) (IP) (IQ) (IR) (IS) (IT) (IU) (IV) (IW) (IX) (IY) (IZ) (JA) (JB) (JC) (JD) (JE) (JF) (JG) (JH) (JI) (JJ) (JK) (JL) (JM) (JN) (JO) (JP) (JQ) (JR) (JS) (JT) (JU) (JV) (JW) (JX) (JY) (JZ) (KA) (KB) (KC) (KD) (KE) (KF) (KG) (KH) (KI) (KJ) (KL) (KM) (KN) (KO) (KP) (KQ) (KR) (KS) (KT) (KU) (KV) (KW) (KX) (KY) (KZ) (LA) (LB) (LC) (LD) (LE) (LF) (LG) (LH) (LI) (LJ) (LK) (LM) (LN) (LO) (LP) (LQ) (LR) (LS) (LT) (LU) (LV) (LW) (LX) (LY) (LZ) (MA) (MB) (MC) (MD) (ME) (MF) (MG) (MH) (MI) (MJ) (MK) (ML) (MN) (MO) (MP) (MQ) (MR) (MS) (MT) (MU) (MV) (MW) (MX) (MY) (MZ) (NA) (NB) (NC) (ND) (NE) (NF) (NG) (NH) (NI) (NJ) (NK) (NL) (NM) (NO) (NP) (NQ) (NR) (NS) (NT) (NU) (NV) (NW) (NX) (NY) (NZ) (OA) (OB) (OC) (OD) (OE) (OF) (OG) (OH) (OI) (OJ) (OK) (OL) (OM) (ON) (OO) (OP) (OQ) (OR) (OS) (OT) (OU) (OV) (OW) (OX) (OY) (OZ) (PA) (PB) (PC) (PD) (PE) (PF) (PG) (PH) (PI) (PJ) (PK) (PL) (PM) (PN) (PO) (PP) (PQ) (PR) (PS) (PT) (PU) (PV) (PW) (PX) (PY) (PZ) (QA) (QB) (QC) (QD) (QE) (QF) (QG) (QH) (QI) (QJ) (QK) (QL) (QM) (QN) (QO) (QP) (QQ) (QR) (QS) (QT) (QU) (QV) (QW) (QX) (QY) (QZ) (RA) (RB) (RC) (RD) (RE) (RF) (RG) (RH) (RI) (RJ) (RK) (RL) (RM) (RN) (RO) (RP) (RQ) (RR) (RS) (RT) (RU) (RV) (RW) (RX) (RY) (RZ) (SA) (SB) (SC) (SD) (SE) (SF) (SG) (SH) (SI) (SJ) (SK) (SL) (SM) (SN) (SO) (SP) (SQ) (SR) (SS) (ST) (SU) (SV) (SW) (SX) (SY) (SZ) (TA) (TB) (TC) (TD) (TE) (TF) (TG) (TH) (TI) (TJ) (TK) (TL) (TM) (TN) (TO) (TP) (TQ) (TR) (TS) (TT) (TU) (TV) (TW) (TX) (TY) (TZ) (UA) (UB) (UC) (UD) (UE) (UF) (UG) (UH) (UI) (UJ) (UK) (UL) (UM) (UN) (UO) (UP) (UQ) (UR) (US) (UT) (UU) (UV) (UW) (UX) (UY) (UZ) (VA) (VB) (VC) (VD) (VE) (VF) (VG) (VH) (VI) (VJ) (VK) (VL) (VM) (VN) (VO) (VP) (VQ) (VR) (VS) (VT) (VU) (VV) (VW) (VX) (VY) (VZ) (WA) (WB) (WC) (WD) (WE) (WF) (WG) (WH) (WI) (WJ) (WK) (WL) (WM) (WN) (WO) (WP) (WQ) (WR) (WS) (WT) (WU) (WV) (WW) (WX) (WY) (WZ) (XA) (XB) (XC) (XD) (XE) (XF) (XG) (XH) (XI) (XJ) (XK) (XL) (XM) (XN) (XO) (XP) (XQ) (XR) (XS) (XT) (XU) (XV) (XW) (XX) (XY) (XZ) (YA) (YB) (YC) (YD) (YE) (YF) (YG) (YH) (YI) (YJ) (YK) (YL) (YM) (YN) (YO) (YP) (YQ) (YR) (YS) (YT) (YU) (YV) (YW) (YX) (YZ) (ZA) (ZB) (ZC) (ZD) (ZE) (ZF) (ZG) (ZH) (ZI) (ZJ) (ZK) (ZL) (ZM) (ZN) (ZO) (ZP) (ZQ) (ZR) (ZS) (ZT) (ZU) (ZV) (ZW) (ZX) (ZY) (ZZ)

2.30 WINDSOR CASTLE STAKES
(Conditions race: 2-Y-O: £17,245: 5f) (11 runners)

101 (11) 212 CAVALIER ROYALE 13 (D) (S) (M) (P) (R) (S) (T) (U) (V) (W) (X) (Y) (Z) (AA) (AB) (AC) (AD) (AE) (AF) (AG) (AH) (AI) (AJ) (AK) (AL) (AM) (AN) (AO) (AP) (AQ) (AR) (AS) (AT) (AU) (AV) (AW) (AX) (AY) (AZ) (BA) (BB) (BC) (BD) (BE) (BF) (BG) (BH) (BI) (BJ) (BK) (BL) (BM) (BN) (BO) (BP) (BQ) (BR) (BS) (BT) (BU) (BV) (BW) (BX) (BY) (BZ) (CA) (CB) (CC) (CD) (CE) (CF) (CG) (CH) (CI) (CJ) (CK) (CL) (CM) (CN) (CO) (CP) (CQ) (CR) (CS) (CT) (CU) (CV) (CW) (CX) (CY) (CZ) (DA) (DB) (DC) (DD) (DE) (DF) (DG) (DH) (DI) (DJ) (DK) (DL) (DM) (DN) (DO) (DP) (DQ) (DR) (DS) (DT) (DU) (DV) (DW) (DX) (DY) (DZ) (EA) (EB) (EC) (ED) (EE) (EF) (EG) (EH) (EI) (EJ) (EK) (EL) (EM) (EN) (EO) (EP) (EQ) (ER) (ES) (ET) (EU) (EV) (EW) (EX) (EY) (EZ) (FA) (FB) (FC) (FD) (FE) (FF) (FG) (FH) (FI) (FJ) (FK) (FL) (FM) (FN) (FO) (FP) (FQ) (FR) (FS) (FT) (FU) (FV) (FW) (FX) (FY) (FZ) (GA) (GB) (GC) (GD) (GE) (GF) (GG) (GH) (GI) (GJ) (GK) (GL) (GM) (GN) (GO) (GP) (GQ) (GR) (GS) (GT) (GU) (GV) (GW) (GX) (GY) (GZ) (HA) (HB) (HC) (HD) (HE) (HF) (HG) (HH) (HI) (HJ) (HK) (HL) (HM) (HN) (HO) (HP) (HQ) (HR) (HS) (HT) (HU) (HV) (HW) (HX) (HY) (HZ) (IA) (IB) (IC) (ID) (IE) (IF) (IG) (IH) (II) (IJ) (IK) (IL) (IM) (IN) (IO) (IP) (IQ) (IR) (IS) (IT) (IU) (IV) (IW) (IX) (IY) (IZ) (JA) (JB) (JC) (JD) (JE) (JF) (JG) (JH) (JI) (JJ) (JK) (JL) (JM) (JN) (JO) (JP) (JQ) (JR) (JS) (JT) (JU) (JV) (JW) (JX) (JY) (JZ) (KA) (KB) (KC) (KD) (KE) (KF) (KG) (KH) (KI) (KJ) (KL) (KM) (KN) (KO) (KP) (KQ) (KR) (KS) (KT) (KU) (KV) (KW) (KX) (KY) (KZ) (LA) (LB) (LC) (LD) (LE) (LF) (LG) (LH) (LI) (LJ) (LK) (LM) (LN) (LO) (LP) (LQ) (LR) (LS) (LT) (LU) (LV) (LW) (LX) (LY) (LZ) (MA) (MB) (MC) (MD) (ME) (MF) (MG) (MH) (MI) (MJ) (MK) (ML) (MN) (MO) (MP) (MQ) (MR) (MS) (MT) (MU) (MV) (MW) (MX) (MY) (MZ) (NA) (NB) (NC) (ND) (NE) (NF) (NG) (NH) (NI) (NJ) (NK) (NL) (NM) (NO) (NP) (NQ) (NR) (NS) (NT) (NU) (NV) (NW) (NX) (NY) (NZ) (OA) (OB) (OC) (OD) (OE) (OF) (OG) (OH) (OI) (OJ) (OK) (OL) (OM) (ON) (OO) (OP) (OQ) (OR) (OS) (OT) (OU) (OV) (OW) (OX) (OY) (OZ) (PA) (PB) (PC) (PD) (PE) (PF) (PG) (PH) (PI) (PJ) (PK) (PL) (PM) (PN) (PO) (PP) (PQ) (PR) (PS) (PT) (PU) (PV) (PW) (PX) (PY) (PZ) (QA) (QB) (QC) (QD) (QE) (QF) (QG) (QH) (QI) (QJ) (QK) (QL) (QM) (QN) (QO) (QP) (QQ) (QR) (QS) (QT) (QU) (QV) (QW) (QX) (QY) (QZ) (RA) (RB) (RC) (RD) (RE) (RF) (RG) (RH) (RI) (RJ) (RK) (RL) (RM) (RN) (RO) (RP) (RQ) (RS) (RT) (RU) (RV) (RW) (RX) (RY) (RZ) (SA) (SB) (SC) (SD) (SE) (SF) (SG) (SH) (SI) (SJ) (SK) (SL) (SM) (SN) (SO) (SP) (SQ) (SR) (SS) (ST) (SU) (SV) (SW) (SX) (SY) (SZ) (TA) (TB) (TC) (TD) (TE) (TF) (TG) (TH) (TI) (TJ) (TK) (TL) (TM) (TN) (TO) (TP) (TQ) (TR) (TS) (TT) (TU) (TV) (TW) (TX) (TY) (TZ) (UA) (UB) (UC) (UD) (UE) (UF) (UG) (UH) (UI) (UJ) (UK) (UL) (UM) (UN) (UO) (UP) (UQ) (UR) (US) (UT) (UU) (UV) (UW) (UX) (UY) (UZ) (VA) (VB) (VC) (VD) (VE) (VF) (VG) (VH) (VI) (VJ) (VK) (VL) (VM) (VN) (VO) (VP) (VQ) (VR) (VS) (VT) (VU) (VV) (VW) (VX) (VY) (VZ) (WA) (WB) (WC) (WD) (WE) (WF) (WG) (WH) (WI) (WJ) (WK) (WL) (WM) (WN) (WO) (WP) (WQ) (WR) (WS) (WT) (WU) (WV) (WW) (WX) (WY) (WZ) (XA) (XB) (XC) (XD) (XE) (XF) (XG) (XH) (XI) (XJ) (XK) (XL) (XM) (XN) (XO) (XP) (XQ) (XR) (XS) (XT) (XU) (XV) (XW) (XX) (XY) (XZ) (YA) (YB) (YC) (YD) (YE) (YF) (YG) (YH) (YI) (YJ) (YK) (YL) (YM) (YN) (YO) (YP) (YQ) (YR) (YS) (YT) (YU) (YV) (YW) (YX) (YZ) (ZA) (ZB) (ZC) (ZD) (ZE) (ZF) (ZG) (ZH) (ZI) (ZJ) (ZK) (ZL) (ZM) (ZN) (ZO) (ZP) (ZQ) (ZR) (ZS) (ZT) (ZU) (ZV) (ZW) (ZX) (ZY) (ZZ)

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ROYAL ASCOT 101 201

RED CAR 102 202

AYR 103 203

NEWMARKET 104 204

Goodwood 105 205

ROYAL ASCOT SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: M. Prescott, 4 winners from 18 runners, 25.0%; J. Weaver, 13 from 63, 22.2%; J. Dunlop, 24 from 122, 19.7%; M. Jones, 14 from 50, 18.0%; J. Charlton, 8 from 48, 16.7%.

JOCKEYS: M. J. Kinane, 20 winners from 113 rides, 17.7%; J. Weaver, 13 from 75, 17.3%; Pat Eddery, 32 from 220, 14.5%; W. Carson, 30 from 219, 13.7%; M. Cecil, 14 from 53, 10.9%; T. Quinn, 19 from 158, 12.0%; M. Roberts, 23 from 165, 11.8%.

3.05 HARDWICK STAKES
(Group 1: £70,970: 1m 4f) (8 runners)

201 (11) 101164 POSIDONAS 24 (D) (S) (M) (P) (R) (S) (T) (U) (V) (W) (X) (Y) (Z) (AA) (AB) (AC) (AD) (AE) (AF) (AG) (AH) (AI) (AJ) (AK) (AL) (AM) (AN) (AO) (AP) (AQ) (AR) (AS) (AT) (AU) (AV) (AW) (AX) (AY) (AZ) (BA) (BB) (BC) (BD) (BE) (BF) (BG) (BH) (BI) (BJ) (BK) (BL) (BM) (BN) (BO) (BP) (BQ) (BR) (BS) (BT) (BU) (BV) (BW) (BX) (BY) (BZ) (CA) (CB) (CC) (CD) (CE) (CF) (CG) (CH) (CI) (CJ) (CK) (CL) (CM) (CN) (CO) (CP) (CQ) (CR) (CS) (CT) (CU) (CV) (CW) (CX) (CY) (CZ) (DA) (DB) (DC) (DD) (DE) (DF) (DG) (DH) (DI) (DJ) (DK) (DL) (DM) (DN) (DO) (DP) (DQ) (DR) (DS) (DT) (DU) (DV) (DW) (DX) (DY) (DZ) (EA) (EB) (EC) (ED) (EE) (EF) (EG) (EH) (EI) (EJ) (EK) (EL) (EM) (EN) (EO) (EP) (EQ) (ER) (ES) (ET) (EU) (EV) (EW) (EX) (EY) (EZ) (FA) (FB) (FC) (FD) (FE) (FF) (FG) (FH) (FI) (FJ) (FK) (FL) (FM) (FN) (FO) (FP) (FQ) (FR) (FS) (FT) (FU) (FV) (FW) (FX) (FY) (FZ) (GA) (GB) (GC) (GD) (GE) (GF) (GG) (GH) (GI) (GJ) (GK) (GL) (GM) (GN) (GO) (GP) (GQ) (GR) (GS) (GT) (GU) (GV) (GW) (GX) (GY) (GZ) (HA) (HB) (HC) (HD) (HE) (HF) (HG) (HH) (HI) (HJ) (HK) (HL) (HM) (HN) (HO) (HP) (HQ) (HR) (HS) (HT) (HU) (HV) (HW) (HX) (HY) (HZ) (IA) (IB) (IC) (ID) (IE) (IF) (IG) (IH) (II) (IJ) (IK) (IL) (IM) (IN) (IO) (IP) (IQ) (IR) (IS) (IT) (IU) (IV) (IW) (IX) (IY) (IZ) (JA) (JB) (JC) (JD) (JE) (JF) (JG) (JH) (JI) (JJ) (JK) (JL) (JM) (JN) (JO) (JP) (JQ) (JR) (JS) (JT) (JU) (JV) (JW) (JX) (JY) (JZ) (KA) (KB) (KC) (KD) (KE) (KF) (KG) (KH) (KI) (KJ) (KL) (KM) (KN) (KO) (KP) (KQ) (KR) (KS) (KT) (KU) (KV) (KW) (KX) (KY) (KZ) (LA) (LB) (LC) (LD) (LE) (LF) (LG) (LH) (LI) (LJ) (LK) (LM) (LN) (LO) (LP) (LQ) (LR) (LS) (LT) (LU) (LV) (LW) (LX) (LY) (LZ) (MA) (MB) (MC) (MD) (ME) (MF) (MG) (MH) (MI) (MJ) (MK) (ML) (MN) (MO) (MP) (MQ) (MR) (MS) (MT) (MU) (MV) (MW) (MX) (MY) (MZ) (NA) (NB) (NC) (ND) (NE) (NF) (NG) (NH) (NI) (NJ) (NK) (NL) (NM) (NO) (NP) (NQ) (NR) (NS) (NT) (NU) (NV) (NW) (NX) (NY) (NZ) (OA) (OB) (OC) (OD) (OE) (OF) (OG) (OH) (OI) (OJ) (OK) (OL) (OM) (ON) (OO) (OP) (OQ) (OR) (OS) (OT) (OU) (OV) (OW) (OX) (OY) (OZ) (PA) (PB) (PC) (PD) (PE) (PF) (PG) (PH) (PI) (PJ) (PK) (PL) (PM) (PN) (PO) (PP) (PQ) (PR) (PS) (PT) (PU) (PV) (PW) (PX) (PY) (PZ) (QA) (QB) (QC) (QD) (QE) (QF) (QG) (QH) (QI) (QJ) (QK) (QL) (QM) (QN) (QO) (QP) (QQ) (QR) (QS) (QT) (QU) (QV) (QW) (QX) (QY) (QZ) (RA) (RB) (RC) (RD) (RE) (RF) (RG) (RH) (RI) (RJ) (RK) (RL) (RM) (RN) (RO) (RP) (RQ) (RS) (RT) (RU) (RV) (RW) (RX) (RY) (RZ) (SA) (SB) (SC) (SD) (SE) (SF) (SG) (SH) (SI) (SJ) (SK) (SL) (SM) (SN) (SO) (SP) (SQ) (SR) (SS) (ST) (SU) (SV) (SW) (SX) (SY) (SZ) (TA) (TB) (TC) (TD) (TE) (TF) (TG) (TH) (TI) (TJ) (TK) (TL) (TM) (TN) (TO) (TP) (TQ) (TR) (TS) (TT) (TU) (TV) (TW) (TX) (TY) (TZ) (UA) (UB) (UC) (UD) (UE) (UF) (UG) (UH) (UI) (UJ) (UK) (UL) (UM) (UN) (UO) (UP) (UQ) (UR) (US) (UT) (UU) (UV) (UW) (UX) (UY) (UZ) (VA) (VB) (VC) (VD) (VE) (VF) (VG) (VH) (VI) (VJ) (VK) (VL) (VM) (VN) (VO) (VP) (VQ) (VR) (VS) (VT) (VU) (VV) (VW) (VX) (VY) (VZ) (WA) (WB) (WC) (WD) (WE) (WF) (WG) (WH) (WI) (WJ) (WK) (WL) (WM) (WN) (WO) (WP) (WQ) (WR) (WS) (WT) (WU) (WV) (WW) (WX) (WY) (WZ) (XA) (XB) (XC) (XD) (XE) (XF) (XG) (XH) (XI) (XJ) (XK) (XL) (XM) (XN) (XO) (XP) (XQ) (XR) (XS) (XT) (XU) (XV) (XW) (XX) (XY) (XZ) (YA) (YB) (YC) (YD) (YE) (YF) (YG) (YH) (YI) (YJ) (YK) (YL) (YM) (YN) (YO) (YP) (YQ) (YR) (YS) (YT) (YU) (YV) (YW) (YX) (YZ) (ZA) (ZB) (ZC) (ZD) (ZE) (ZF) (ZG) (ZH) (ZI) (ZJ) (ZK) (ZL) (ZM) (ZN) (ZO) (ZP) (ZQ) (ZR) (ZS) (ZT) (ZU) (ZV) (ZW) (ZX) (ZY) (ZZ)

3.45 WINDHAM HANDICAP
(£49,534: 6f) (20 runners)

201 (11) 101164 POSIDONAS 24 (D) (S) (M) (P) (R) (S) (T) (U) (V) (W) (X) (Y) (Z) (AA) (AB) (AC) (AD) (

Strikers help to net £1,000 prize

Klinsmann and Suker combine to hit the target

PERHAPS appropriately in view of England's exploits with Cathay Pacific, the winning Euro ITF selector, Mr A Sanderford from Wimbledon, has entitled his team Pol-devin. Mr Sanderford's selection finished eight points clear of his nearest rival, at the end of section three of the competition.

Mr Sanderford, who has made ten transfers in total during the first three sections of Euro ITF, gained his success without picking Alan Shearer, the tournament's leading goalscorer, or the two strikers who have both scored three goals each, Brian Laudrup, of Denmark, and Hristo Stochkov, of Bulgaria. Indeed, some of Mr Sanderford's selections would not be regarded as obvious ones, with the inclusion of Darren Anderton, not one of England's principal success stories in the group matches, Peter Schmeichel, who had such a difficult time against Croatia, and the Scotland defenders, Boyd and Hendry.

His careful selection wins him £1,000 for the highest score of the section and puts him in pole position in the race for the overall £25,000 prize for the top selector in Euro ITF.

Mr Sanderford's team was:

Goalkeeper
Peter Schmeichel (Denmark)

Full backs
Tommy Boyd (Scotland)
Marc Höniger (Switzerland)

Central defenders
Marc Rieper (Denmark)
Colin Hendry (Scotland)

Midfield players
Zinedine Zidane (France, RS)
Darren Anderton (England)
Dimitrio Albertini (Italy)
Rui Costa (Portugal)

Strikers
Davor Suker (Croatia)
Jürgen Klinsmann (Germany)

Manager
Terry Venables (England)



In association with
winterthur

Strikers, as should be expected, are among the highest scorers in Euro ITF, with Suker (Croatia), Sheringham (England), Klinsmann (Germany), Casiraghi (Italy) and Raduciotu (Romania) all pushing the top three hard. But the midfield players who have scored goals are also proving their worth. Paul Gascoigne, of England, and the Germany pairing of Christian Ziege and Andreas Möller have all scored seven points, with two midfield players having scored six.

Further back, the defenders who venture upfield with success are more valuable still. Three central defenders have gained double figure scores: the Germany duo of Thomas Helmer and Matthias Sammer, along with the Portugal defender, Fernando Couto, Nikola Jekanic, of Croatia, has scored eight points, as has his countryman, Igor Stimac. Andreas Köpcke's penalty save against Italy gives him the highest score for a goalkeeper, with 14. Despite the adulation heaped on David Seaman after his save from Gary McAllister, the Scotland captain, at Wembley last week, the Arsenal goalkeeper is well down the Euro ITF lists, with a paltry three points. Drazen Ladic, of Croatia, Vitor Baia, of Portugal, and Andy Gorman, of Scotland, have all gained more points than the England player.

Choosing the manager is, of course, a much easier decision at this stage of the championship. The sole criterion is victory; in this light it is perhaps a pointer to the ultimate outcome that the leading three Euro ITF selectors have chosen Terry Venables (twice), the England coach, and Bert Vogts, of Germany.

The question of discipline is also one to which Euro ITF selectors must give consideration. With five dismissals and 120 cautions from the group matches, referees are not sparing teams the cards. The full list of cautions and dismissals of the teams still in the European championship can be found on page 48 today.

Although Germany were particularly hard hit in their opening match, the distribution of red and yellow cards has evened itself out over the group matches. Denmark, although no longer in the competition, achieved the lowest number of cards (four, all yellow); but, of those teams left in Euro 96, France and Holland (with six cautions each) are the ones who can be most proud of their records.

Euro ITF reflects the real world of Euro 96. It is up to you to prove your selection skills by picking a team to beat the best. Having done that, you may attempt to improve your points-scoring potential by using the transfer system.

Your team must always be in line with the format of one goalkeeper, two full backs, two central defenders, four midfield players, two strikers and a manager. You may not pick more than two individuals (player or manager) from the same country. You must also include one Rising Star (but no more than one) in your team and those players, 16 promising footballers — one from each country.

The Euro ITF competition is separated into five sections. For each section, you may transfer up to five individual players (including the manager), but it is important to note that you may only use the transfer facility once for each team. If used more than once, that team will revert to its original form.

During section four, which covers the quarter-finals, team selectors may now choose up to four individuals from any one country, which will become effective for section five, which covers the semi-finals and final.

□ All queries on Euro Interactive Team Football should be directed to 0171-757 7016.



Alan Shearer has set the standard for goalscorers in the European championship. His form suggests him to be a prime selection for Euro ITF.

HOW THE SCORING SYSTEM WORKS IN EURO ITF

All matches in Euro 96 season count for points. Every goal and penalty counts.

POINTS SCORED	
GOALKEEPER	
Keeps clean sheet* (including penalty shoot-out)	+4
Saves goal (including penalty shoot-out)	+3
Saves penalty in penalty shoot-out	+3
FULL BACK/CENTRAL DEFENDER	
Keeps clean sheet* (including penalty shoot-out)	+3
Saves goal (including penalty shoot-out)	+3
MIDFIELD PLAYER	
Keeps clean sheet* (including penalty shoot-out)	+1
Strikes goal	+2
Strikes goal in extra time	+4
Strikes goal in group match	+3
Strikes goal in quarter-final, semi-final or final	+6

POINTS DEDUCTED	
GOALKEEPER	
Concedes goal (including penalty shoot-out)	-2
FULL BACK/CENTRAL DEFENDER	
Concedes goal (including penalty shoot-out)	-2
ALL PLAYERS	
Yellow card	-1
Second yellow card (sent off with red card)	-2
Red card (sent off without showing yellow card previously)	-3
ALL PLAYERS	
Concedes penalty	-1
Misses penalty (including penalty shoot-out)	-1
Scores own goal	-1
Team loses in group match	-1
Team loses in quarter-final, semi-final or final	-3



* must have played for 75 minutes in the match
† must have played for 45 minutes in the match

HOW TO MAKE A TRANSFER IN EURO ITF

Call 0891 233 335

Calls will be charged at 30p per minute cheap rate, 40p per minute at other times. If calling from the Republic of Ireland call 004 4990 200 635.

You may make transfers only by telephone using a Touch-Tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-Tone). You will need your ten-digit selector's PIN. Follow the simple instructions and use the players' five-digit codes.

During a transfer period, you may make up to five transfers but may only call the transfer line once per team.

The Euro ITF competition is separated into five sections. For each of the sections (except when you are transferring players for use in section five), you may transfer up to five individuals (including the manager) but retain the format of one goalkeeper, two full backs, two central defenders, four midfield players, two strikers and a manager. You may not pick more than two individuals from the same country and you must include one (and no more than one) rising star.

For section five only you may transfer up to five individuals (including the manager), maintaining the team format and rising star restrictions but you may pick up to four individuals from the same country.

SECTION ONE (Saturday June 8 to Tuesday June 11): completed.

SECTION TWO (Thursday June 13 to Sunday June 16): completed.

SECTION THREE (Tuesday June 18 to Wednesday June 19): completed.

SECTION FOUR (Saturday June 22 to Sunday June 23): transfers may be made from today until 1pm tomorrow with immediate effect.

SECTION FIVE (Wednesday June 26 to Sunday June 30): transfers may be made from 3pm tomorrow until 2pm on Wednesday June 26 and will be effective from the commencement of section five.

Player out: ☐ Club: ☐

Player in: ☐ Club: ☐

PLAY EURO ITF ON THE INTERNET

IT IS easy to play Euro Interactive Team Football on the Internet. All your player transfers can be made free, on-line. Special screens allow you to check the performance of your team and individual players.

Internet players are also eligible for special £250 prizes, as well as the prizes in the main competition.

Enter The Times's Internet edition home page on

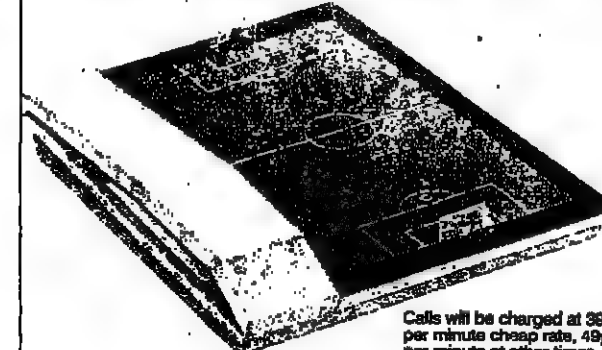
<http://www.the-times.co.uk>

and click on to the Euro ITF "Button".

THE TOP 250 PLAYERS IN EURO INTERACTIVE TEAM FOOTBALL

Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts
1	Pol-devin	(A Sanderford)	80
2	Larger Louis	(S Burchfield)	79
3	Punjab Warriors	(K S Rai)	78
4	Niff All 4	(W Phillips)	77
5	Euro Tagdeers	(M Vorajec)	77
6	Try Town Ruckers	(C Hanson)	77
7	Elbro Punks	(P O'Connor)	76
8	Euro Champions XI	(S Wiest)	76
9	Nobby 43	(J Brown)	76
10	—	—	75
11	Peyez X	(P Mestachian)	75
12	Troy Town Cheaters	(C Anson)	75
13	C'est Horrible	(S Horrobin)	74
14	Rickers & Rollers	(R Kelly)	74
15	Daydortdortdorters	(T Kelly)	74
16	Nobby 19	(J Brown)	74
17	Last Chance City	(I Ralph)	74
18	Euro Elite	(E Eagle)	74
19	Trytown Ruckers	(C Anson)	74
20	Queensdowners	(S Hall)	73
21	Fulham's Punks	(K Browne)	73
22	A C Dawson	(R Codd)	73
23	Mall 150496	(G Dear)	73
24	Rhino's Rangers 4	(S Ince)	72
25	Wilsons Dream	(M Barry)	72
26	Patrice Alene Jacquet	(D Powell)	72
27	Treble 2	(R E J Ryan)	72
28	Toby's Team	(C Jones)	72
29	Tangos	(J J Robins)	72
30	Scorn's Crackpots	(D D Scorn)	71
31	TS 111	(J Muir)	71
32	Das Boot	(D A Sutton)	71
33	Euroelectroshers	(K Brown)	71
34	Euro All Stars	(G Clark)	71
35	Euro Giants	(R Morris)	70
36	Percy And Stan	(P Prest)	70
37	Euro All Stars	(J Tan)	70
38	Terry's Bulgars	(D Stanbury)	70
39	Le Tazban XI	(J E Sloan)	70
40	—	—	70
41	Slept Against E	(S Shipley)	69
42	Euro Big Boys	(J Griffin)	69
43	FC Loko	(K Onordia)	69
44	Eurostars	(A Burhan)	69
45	Gorman Euroshes	(T Brown)	69
46	Euro Champions?	(J T Luokman)	69
47	Magnety Mihelov	(N King)	69
48	Rebelle Poppers	(S Harris)	69
49	Trytown Punks	(C Anson)	69
50	The Ard	(P Radfern)	69
51	Ben Bocca	(M Elmes)	69
52	Stonygals	(G Heningham)	69
53	—	—	68
54	This Is Now	(K Saunders)	68
55	Euro Champions	(M Patel)	68
56	Money On France	(S Garne)	68
57	Lands Horrors	(D Cavill)	68
58	The Mincelets	(J Ullman)	68
59	Hive We Won Yet?	(D Hopkins)	68
60	The Monkeys All Mine	(T Hall)	68
61	Machine Shop Un	(G Wright)	68
62	Real Vicar	(M Garzotto)	68
63	Coverts Wanders	(C Lanane)	68
64	England Select 11	(B Youngs)	68
65	Out East Ginlers?	(A Temperley)	68
66	—	—	67
67	Begery Super Stars	(T Richards)	67
68	Old Boys	(N J Taffinder)	67
69	Not Again Vicar	—	67

FIND OUT HOW YOUR TEAM IS DOING



Call the Euro ITF helpline on
0891 774 796
From Ireland call 004 4990 200 504.

Check your points total and your ranking. You need a Touch-Tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-Tone) and your ten-digit selector's PIN. The line is open from noon each day.

Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts
101	Wily Things United	(I Downie)	101
102	Kernal Flyers	(K Donohue)	101
103	Parade 1	(S Carr)	101
104	Euro Trash 96	(D Shaw)	101
105	Spirite Reserves	(K Hunt)	101
106	The Bullies	(I Harrison)	101
107	Old Black Horse	(R Greenley)	101
108	Flying Team	(R Maughan)	101
109	Crown Castlers XI	(M Parry)	101
110	Stimner Killers	(P B O'Symme)	101
111	Isla	(K Shear)	101
112	The Mixtures	(F Westlake)	101
113	Brainbow United	(G Weiss)	101
114	Euro Skippers	(I D Brunt)	101
115	Filmo Splinters	(R Gray)	101
116	Nobby 22	(J Brown)	101
117	Markus Euro 12	(M Halbert)	101
118	Troy Town Dog Catchers	(C Anson)	101
119	Harry's Hyenas	(H Paget)	101
120	Saxon Warriors	(R Gray)	101
121	Ras A	(D Shuter)	101
122	Boing Boing Baggy	(T Horne)	101
123	J C B 1	(J Elgham)	101
124	Unlabeled Eleven	(J Williams)	101
125	J G 3	(J Goody)	101
126	Troytown Albion	(C Anson)	101
127	B T S Boys	(I Muir)	101
128	F Connection	(F Simon)	101
129	Largan Longhalls	(M Widdie)	101
130	Euro Class XII	(A Siddie)	101
131	The Chunters	(T Bull)	101
132	Oliver's Army 3rds	(S White)	101
133	Romania	(I Rimmer)	101
134	Thunder FC	(S Norman)	101
135	Wellington	(M Baber)	101
136	Satara Five	(W Bar)	101
137	Ironstone II	(T Howard)	101
138	Ooh Ash Cantona	(P Grant)	101
139	Oldham Aces	(D Hoskins)	101
140	Dave Club	(D Pearson)	101
141	Year 2002	(P Costello)	101
142	Aid United	(A Adams)	101
143	Antrobus Angels 5	(P Piddock)	101
144	V P G Sporting C P	(V Guimaraes)	101
145	Fuzzy's Wonders	(R Fulkwood)	101
146	Irish Not At Euro 96	(M Drummond)	101
147	Smiley's People	(J Eames)	101
148	Ogilvie Republic	(P N Ogilvie)	101
149	Overmanmook	(A N Burge)	101
150	Shear Class	(J Loughran)	101
151	A Laff	(K Wood)	101
152	Just Look At His Face	(S Wessie)	101
153	Why No 2nd Prize?	(I Ralph)	101
154	Euromaniacs XI	(A Haral)	101
155	Queenswood United	(D Kitchiner)	101
156	Petes Punters	(P Badford)	101
157	Belvedereans	(T Hawkins)	101
158	Losers	(S Bejwar)	101
159	Das 4	(D Shuter)	101
160	Kal Carp United	(D Seagar)	101
161	Troytown Wanderers	(C Anson)	101
162	Troy Town Dolphins	(C Anson)	101
163	Linagre Linkers	(T Preston)	101
164	Troytown Stars	(C Anson)	101
165	Jimmy's Giants	(J Saunders)	101
166	Flo's Eleven	(F von Eisenhart)	101
167	Sparta Priests	(J Parker)	101
168	Harrington Boys	(J Simon)	101
169	Ad's All Stars	(M Fry)	101

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20131	Robert V. ...
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Code	Name
20131	Krasimir Chirvanov
20132	Valentin Ivanov
20133	Gosho Goshchev
20134	Petar Mitrev
20135	Tihomir Ivanov
20136	Stavros E. S.
20137	Nikola Jekov
20138	Zdravko Pavlov
20139	Dimitar Sodev
20140	Igor Stamat
20141	Michael Hristov
20142	Miroslav Kuznetsov
20143	Lubomir Kuznetsov
20144	Karel Hec
20145	Jes Hec
20146	Lars Hec
20147	Marc Riber
20148	Tony Adams
20149	Gary P. Hec
20150	Gareth Scott
20151	Steve Hec
20152	Laurent Borge
20153	Marcel Borge
20154	Frank LeBorgne
20155	Alain Borge
20156	Markus Borge
20157	Thomas Borge
20158	Jürgen Koller
20159	Mathias Borge
20160	Dennis E. Borge
20161	John de Kock
20162	Sten Valck
20163	John Veldman
20164	Alexandre Comtat
20165	Ciro Ferreira Comtat
20166	Miguel Ferreira
20167	Alexandre Hec
20168	Fernando Hec
20169	Hedder Christov
20170	Paulo Madeira
20171	Carlos Madeira
20172	Fernando Madeira
20173	Antonio Madeira

Check your players' points in Euro Interactive Team Football

GOALKEEPERS

Code	Name	(Country, club)	Wk	Cum
10101	Boris Myhalov	(Bulgaria, Reading)	-5	-1
10102	Dimitar Popov	(Bulgaria, CSKA Sofia)	0	0
10103	Zdravko Zdravkov	(Bulgaria, Slavia Sofia)	0	0
10201	Tonci Gabric	(Croatia, Hajduk Split)	0	0
10202	Mladen Ladic	(Croatia, Croatia Zagreb)	0	0
10203	Martjan Mirmic	(Croatia, Varteks Varazdin)	-5	-10
10301	Petr Kouba	(Czech Rep, Sparta Prague)	-5	-5
10302	Ludek Mikosko	(Czech Rep, West Ham United)	0	0
10303	Pavel Smick	(Czech Rep, Newcastle United)	0	0
10304	Ladislav Slovák	(Czech Rep, Slovan Liberec)	0	0
10401	Lars Hoegh	(Denmark, Odense)	0	0
10402	Mogens Krogh	(Denmark, Brøndby)	0	0
10403	Peter Schmeichel	(Denmark, Manchester United)	+5	-2
10501	Tim Flowers	(England, Blackburn Rovers)	-1	-3
10502	David Seaman	(England, Arsenal)	-1	-3
10503	Ian Walker	(England, Tottenham Hotspur)	0	0
10601	Fabien Barthez	(France, Monaco)	-1	+3
10602	Bernard Lama	(France, Paris Saint-Germain)	0	0
10603	Bruno Martini	(France, Montpellier)	0	0
10701	Oliver Kahn	(Germany, Bayern Munich)	0	0
10702	Stefan Klos	(Germany, Borussia Dortmund)	0	0
10703	Andreas Köpcke	(Germany, Eintracht Frankfurt)	+4	+14
10704	Oliver Reck	(Germany, Werder Bremen)	0	0
10801	Ed de Goeij	(Holland, Feyenoord)	-7	+3
10802	Rued Hesp	(Holland, Ajax)	0	0
10803	Luca Bucci	(Italy, Parma)	0	0
10901	Angelo Peruzzi	(Italy, Juventus)	+5	+1
10902	Francesco Toldo	(Italy, Fiorentina)	0	0
11001	Vitor Bala	(Portugal, FC Porto)	+5	+9
11002	Alfredo Castro	(Portugal, Braga)	0	0
11003	Rui Correia	(Portugal, Sporting Lisbon)	0	0
11004	Paulo Costa	(Romania, Rapid Bucharest)	0	0
11101	Florin Tene	(Romania, Dinamo Bucharest)	-3	-3
11102	Florin Prunea	(Romania, Steaua Bucharest)	0	-2
11103	Bogdan Stelea	(Romania, FC Tyrol)	-5	-3
11201	Stanislav Cherchesov	(Russia, Chelsea)	0	0
11202	Dmitri Khariin	(Russia, Lokomotiv Moscow)	0	0
11203	Sergei Ovchinnikov	(Russia, Rangers)	+5	+7
11301	Andy Goram	(Scotland, Hibernian)	0	0
11302	Jim Leighton	(Scotland, Partick Thistle)	0	0
11303	Nicky Walker	(Spain, Valencia)	-1	-3
11401	Andoni Zubizarreta	(Spain, Real Madrid)	0	0
11402	Santiago Cañizares	(Spain, Atlético Madrid)	0	0
11403	José Molina	(Switzerland, Sion)	-1	-5
11501	Stephane Lehmann	(Switzerland, Servette)	0	0
11502	Marco Pascolo	(Switzerland, Grasshopper)	0	0
11503	Pascal Zuberbühler	(Switzerland, Neuchâtel)	0	0
11601	Joel Cornille	(Turkey, Fenerbahçe)	0	0
11602	Ipekoglu Ergin	(Turkey, Fenerbahçe)	-8	-8
11603	Rustu Recber	(Turkey, Trabzonspor)	0	0
11604	Erkan Arman	(Turkey, Altayspor)	0	0

FULL BACKS

Code	Name	(Country, club)	Wk	Cum
20131	Ilan Kuryakov	(Bulgaria, Anorthosis)	0	+1
20132	Radostin Kishishev	(Bulgaria, Netohimik B — RS)	-5	-5
20133	Emil Kremlev	(Bulgaria, Olimpiakos)	-5	-3
20134	Tzanko Tsvetanov	(Bulgaria, VfL Wolfsburg)	0	0
20201	Elvir Zekovic	(Croatia, Bayern Munich)	-5	-2
20202	Robert Jarni	(Croatia, Real Betis)	-5	-5
20203	Nikola Jurcovic	(Croatia, Freiburg)	-5	-5
20204	Dario Simic	(Croatia, FC Croatia)	-5	-10
20301	Radoslav Lalaj	(Czech Rep, Schkeibitz 04)	0	0
20302	Jiri Lach	(Czech Rep, Slavia Prague)	0	0
20303	Tomas Repka	(Czech Rep, Sparta Prague)	-2	-7
20304	Jan Suchoparek	(Czech Rep, Sigma Olomouc)	0	0
20305	Martin Kolář	(Denmark, Ulfesund)	+3	+2
20401	Thomas Helveg	(Denmark, Silkeborg — RS)	0	0
20402	Jacobi Laurson	(Denmark, Aarhus)	0	-2
20403	Torben Pechnick	(Denmark, Brøndby)	0	0
20404	Jens Rasmussen	(England, Liverpool)	-1	+1
20501	Gary Neville	(England, Manchester United)	0	0
20502	Philip Neville	(England, Manchester United)	-1	-2
20503	Stuart Pearce	(England, Tottenham Hotspur)	0	0
20504	Sam Campbell	(France, Turin)	0	0
20601	Jocelyn Angloma	(France, Monaco)	-1	-2
20602	Eric de Waele	(France, Bordeaux)	-1	-1
20603	Bjornet Lizarazu	(France, Monaco)	0	+7
20604	Lilian Thuram	(Germany, Borussia Dortmund)	0	0
20701	Stefan Reuter	(Germany, Rostock)	0	0
20702	Rene Schneider	(Holland, Ajax)	-7	-1
20703	Frank de Boer	(Holland, Ajax)	-7	-1
20801	Winston Bogarde	(Holland, Ajax)	-7	-1
20802	Michael Reiziger	(Italy, Parma)	+4	+5
20803	Luigi Apolloni	(Italy, AS Roma)	+4	0
20804	Paolo Maldini	(Italy, AC Milan)	+4	0
20901	Roberto Mussi	(Italy, Fiorentina)	0	0
20902	Fernando Nelson	(Portugal, Sporting Lisbon)	0	0
21001	Paulinho Santos	(Portugal, FC Porto)	+4	+4
21002	Carlos Sacramento	(Portugal, FC Porto)	+4	+4
21003	João Tavares	(Portugal, Boavista)	+4	+7
21004	Dimas Teixeira	(Romania, Universitatea Craiova)	0	0
21005	Comanul Papura	(Romania, Cercle Brugge)	-3	-5
21101	Dan Petrescu	(Romania, Cercle Brugge)	-3	-5
21102	Tibor Selymes	(Russia, Dynamo Moscow)	0	0
21201	Yuri Kovtun	(Russia, Spartak Moscow)	0	0
21202	Ramiz Ramizovic	(Russia, Spartak Moscow)	+4	+4
21203	Sergei Gorlukovich	(Scotland, Celtic)	+4	+4
21301	Jonny Boyd	(Scotland, Celtic)	0	0
21302	Craig Burley	(Scotland, Celtic)	0	0
21303	Stewart McKimmie	(Scotland, Celtic)	0	0
21304	Brian O'Neill	(Spain, Barcelona)	-1	-5
21305	Tosh McKinlay	(Spain, Real Zaragoza)	0	0
21401	Sergi Barjau	(Spain, Barcelona)	0	0
21402	Alberto Selsue	(Spain, Valencia)	-1	-2
21403	Jonny Otero	(Spain, Atlético Madrid)	-1	-4
21404	J.M. Lopez Martinez	(Switzerland, Everton)	-1	-4
21501	Mark Hottiger	(Switzerland, Sion)	0	0
21502	Yvan Quentin	(Switzerland, Neuchâtel)	0	0
21503	Sebastien Jeanneret	(Switzerland, Sion)	-1	-2
21504	Raphael Wicky	(Turkey, Besiktas)	-5	-8
21601	Recep Cetin	(Turkey, DC Karabukspor)	0	0
21602	İncefete Vedat	(Turkey, DC Karabukspor)	0	0

CENTRAL DEFENDERS

Code	Name	(Country, club)	Wk	Cum
30131	Krasimir Chomakov	(Bulgaria, Mladost Plovdiv)	0	0
30132	Valentin Dantchev	(Bulgaria, Levski Sofia)	0	0
30133	Gosho Guinechev	(Bulgaria, Denizlispor)	-5	-7
30134	Petar Hutechev	(Bulgaria, Hamburg)	-5	-3
30135	Milovan Ivanov	(Croatia, West Ham United)	0	+3
30201	Slaven Bilic	(Croatia, Real Oviedo)	-5	-5
30202	Nikola Jerkan	(Croatia, Hercules)	-5	-5
30203	Dubravko Pavlicic	(Croatia, Croatia Zagreb)	-5	-5
30204	Zvonimir Soldo	(Croatia, Derby County)	-5	-5
30205	Igor Stima	(Czech Rep, Sparta Prague)	0	0
30301	Michal Horak	(Czech Rep, Kaizer Chiefs)	-2	-2
30302	Michal Kadlec	(Czech Rep, Petra Dmouice)	0	0
30303	Lubos Kubik	(Denmark, Fenerbahçe)	+4	+2
30304	Karel Rada	(Denmark, Brøndby)	+4	+2
30401	Jes Hoegh	(Denmark, West Ham United)	-1	0
30402	Lars Olsen	(Denmark, Brøndby)	-1	0
30403	Marc Rieper	(England, Arsenal)	0	0
30501	Tony Adams	(England, Manchester United)	-2	+1
30502	Gary Pallister	(England, Aston Villa)	-2	+1
30503	Gareth Southgate	(England, Newcastle United)	+2	+4
30504	Steve Howey	(France, AC Milan)	0	0
30601	Lucien Blanc	(France, Strasbourg)	0	0
30602	Marcel Desailly	(France, Paris Saint-Germain)	0	0
30603	Frank LeBoeuf	(France, Paris Saint-Germain)	0	0
30604	Alain Roche	(Germany, Bayern Munich)	+4	+12
30701	Markus Babbel	(Germany, Bayern Munich)	0	0
30702	Thomas Helmer	(Germany, Borussia Dortmund)	+4	+15
30703	Jürgen Kohler	(Germany, Borussia Dortmund)	-9	-5
30704	Matthias Sammer	(Holland, Ajax)	-5	0
30801	Danny Blind	(Holland, Roda JC)	0	0
30802	Johan de Kock	(Holland, PSV Eindhoven)	0	0
30803	Stan Valickx	(Holland, Sparta Rotterdam)	+4	0
30804	John Veldman	(Italy, AC Milan)	0	0
30901	Alessandro Costacurta	(Italy, Juventus)	0	0
30902	Ciro Ferrara	(Italy, Juventus)	0	0
30903	Moreno Torricelli	(Italy, Lazio)	+4	+10
30904	Alessandro Nesta	(Portugal, Benfica)	+4	+7
31001	Fernando Couto	(Portugal, Benfica)	0	0
31002	Heitor Cristovao	(Portugal, Belenenses)	0	0
31003	Paulo Madeira	(Portugal, Boavista)	0	0
31004	Carlos Magalhães	(Portugal, Boavista)	-3	-3
31005	Fernando Mendes	(Romania, Steaua Bucharest)	0	0
31101	Antoni Dobos	(Romania, Guingamp)	-4	-4
31102	Gheorghe Mihail	(Romania, Steaua Bucharest)	-3	-4
31103	Gheorghe Popescu	(Romania, Steaua Bucharest)	0	-2
31104	Daniel Prodan	(Romania, Villareal)	0	-1
31105	Mladan Belodedici	(Russia, CSKA Moscow)	0	0
31106	Yevgeny Gushmanov	(Russia, CSKA Moscow)	0	0



Jürgen Klinsmann has struck twice in Euro 96. Should you select him?

Code	Name	(Country, club)	Wk	Cum
31201	Yuri Nikiforov	(Russia, Spartak Moscow)	-8	-11
31202	Omar Tetteh	(Russia, Alania Vladikavkaz)	-2	-10
31203	Colin Calderwood	(Scotland, Tottenham Hotspur)	+3	+4
31204	Colin Hendry	(Scotland, Blackburn Rovers)	+4	+4
31205	Alan McLaran	(Scotland, Rangers)	0	0
31206	Derek Whyte	(Scotland, Middlesbrough)	0	0
31207	Rafael Alkorta	(Spain, Real Madrid)	-1	-3
31208	Abelardo Fernandez	(Spain, Barcelona)	-1	-3
31209	Fernando Hierro	(Spain, Real Madrid)	-2	-2
31210	Miguel Angel Nadal	(Spain, Barcelona)	-1	-5
31211	Alain Geiger	(Switzerland, Grasshopper)	-1	-5
31212	Stephane Henchoz	(Switzerland, Sion)	0	0
31213	Dominique Herr	(Switzerland, Grasshopper)	-2	-7
31214	Roman Vega	(Switzerland, Neuchâtel)	0	0
31215	Regis Rothenbühler	(Turkey, Besiktas)	-5	-7
31216	Alany Ozal	(Turkey, Galatasaray)	-4	-4
31217	Bulent Korkmaz	(Turkey, Trabzonspor)	-5	-5
31218	Ogun Temizkanitoglu	(Turkey, Trabzonspor)	0	0
31219	Ozkoylu Osman	(Turkey, Trabzonspor)	0	0

MIDFIELD PLAYERS

Code	Name	(Country, club)	Wk	Cum
40101	Krasimir Balakov	(Bulgaria, VfB Stuttgart)	+1	+4
40102	Daniel Borkov	(Bulgaria, Mladost 1860)	0	0
40103	Borcho Guechev	(Bulgaria, Luton Town)	0	0
40104	Zlatko Yankov	(Bulgaria, Bayer Uerdingen)	+1	+3
40105	Ivaylo Yordanov	(Bulgaria, Sporting Lisbon)	0	0
40106	Georgi Donkov	(Croatia, Derby County)	+1	+4
40107	Aljosa Asanovic	(Croatia, AC Milan)	+1	+5
40108	Zvonimir Boban	(Croatia, Salzburg)	+1	+1
40109	Mladen Mladenovic	(Croatia, Hajduk Split)	+1	+4
40110	Nenad Pralija	(Croatia, FC Bruges — RS)	+1	+3
40111	Robert Prosinecki	(Croatia, FC Bruges — RS)	+1	+3
40112	Mario Stanic	(Czech Rep, Sparta Prague)	0	0
40113	Petr Berger	(Czech Rep, Sparta Prague)	0	0
40114	Michal Bilek	(Czech Rep, Sparta Prague)	0	0
40115	Martin Frydek	(Czech Rep, Sparta Prague)	0	0
40116	Pavel Nedved	(Czech Rep, Sparta Prague)	+1	+3
40117	Jiri Nemec	(Czech Rep, Sparta Prague)	+1	+3
40118	Vaclav Nemec	(Czech Rep, Sparta Prague)	+1	+3
40119	Radek Bejbi	(Czech Rep, Sparta Prague)	+1	+3
40120	Pavel Novotny	(Czech Rep, Sparta Prague)	+1	+3
40121	Michael Laudrup	(Denmark, Real Madrid)	+4	+4
40122	Alien Nielsen	(Denmark, Brøndby)	0	0
40123	Peter Nielsen	(Denmark, Brøndby)	0	0
40124	Michael Schjoneberg	(Denmark, Ipswich Town)	+2	+2
40125	Claus Thomsen	(Denmark, Brøndby)	0	0
40126	Henrik Larsen	(Denmark, Lyngby)	0	0
40127	Stig Tofting	(Denmark, Tottenham Hotspur)	+1	+4
40128	Darren Anderton	(England, Rangers)	+1	+7
40129	Paul Gascoigne	(England, Internazionale)	0	0
40130	Paul Ince	(England, Newcastle United)	+1	+4
40131	Robert Lee	(England, Liverpool)	0	0
40132	Steve McManaman	(England, Liverpool)	0	0
40133	David Platt	(England, Nottingham Forest)	0	0
40134	Steve Stone	(England, Chelsea)	0	0
40135	Dennis Wise	(England, Liverpool)	0	0
40136	Jamie Redknapp	(France, Juventus)	+1	+5
40137	Vincent Guerin	(France, Paris Saint-Germain)	+1	+5
40138	Christian Karembeu	(France, Sampdoria)	0	0
40139	Sabri Lamouchi	(France, Auxerre)	0	0
40140	Corentin Martins	(France, Bordeaux — RS)	+1	+4
40141	Zinedine Zidane	(Germany, Werder Bremen)	0	0
40142	Marco Bode	(Germany, Werder Bremen)	+2	+2
40143	Dieter Elts	(Germany, Borussia Dortmund)	+2	+2
40144	Steffen Freund	(Germany, Borussia Dortmund)	+2	+2
40145	Thomas Hässler	(Germany, Borussia Dortmund)	+2	+2
40146	André Scholl	(Germany, Bayern Munich — RS)	0	0
40147	Thomas Strunz	(Germany, Bayern Munich)	+2	+2
40148	Christian Ziege	(Holland, Ajax — RS)	+1	+4
40149	Edgar Davids	(Holland, Ajax)	0	0
40150	Ronald de Boer	(Holland, Ajax)	0	0
40151	Wim Jonk	(Holland, PSV Eindhoven)	+1	+2
40152	Clarence Seedorf	(Holland, PSV Eindhoven)	0	0
40153	Aron Winter	(Italy, AC Milan)	+2	+3
40154	Philip Cocu	(Italy, AC Milan)	0	0
40155	Demetrio Albertini	(Italy, Parma)	0	0
40156	Dino Baggio	(Italy, Juventus)	0	0
40157	Antonio Conte	(Italy, Juventus)	0	0
40158	Roberto di Matteo	(Italy, Lazio)	+1	+2
40159	Roberto Donadoni	(Italy, AC Milan)	+2	+2
40160	Diego Fuser	(Italy, Lazio)	0	0
40161	Fabio Rossitto	(Italy, Udinese)	0	0
40162	Paulo Bento	(Portugal, Benfica)	0	0
40163	Nuno Capucho	(Portugal, Guimarães)	+1	+4
40164	Rui Costa	(Portugal, Sporting Lisbon)	+2	+2
40165	Oscar Cruz	(Portugal, Sporting Lisbon)	+2	+2
40166	Luis Figo	(Portugal, Sporting Lisbon)	+1	+4
40167	Vitor Paneira	(Portugal, Sporting Lisbon)	+1	+4
40168	Sa Pinto	(Portugal, Sporting Lisbon)	+1	+4
40169	Paulo Sousa	(Romania, S Bucharest — RS)	0	0
40170	Ioan Filipescu	(Romania, Bayer Leverkusen)	0	0
40171	Ioan Angelo Lupescu	(Romania, Dinamo Bucharest)	0	0
40172	Dorinel Munteanu	(Romania, Cologne)	0	0

41145	Horia Radu Niculescu	(Romania, National Bucharest)	0	0
41146	Nica Besarab Panduru	(Romania, Benfica)	0	0
41147	Ioen Sabau	(Romania, Brescia)	0	+1
41148	Ovidiu Stinga	(Romania, Salamanca)	+1	+1
41241	Andrei Kanchevskis	(Russia, Everton)	0	+1
41242	Valery Karpin	(Russia, Real Sociedad)	+1	+3
41243	Alexander Mostovoi	(Russia, Straburo)	+3	+5
41244	Viktor Onopko	(Russia, Oviedo)	0	0
41245	Andrei Platnitski	(Russia, Spartak Moscow)	0	0
41246	Vladislav Radimov	(Russia, CSKA Moscow)	0	+2
41247	Igor Shalimov	(Russia, Udinese)	0	0
41248	Igor Taymabatar	(Russia, Spartak Moscow)	0	+4
41249	Dmitry Khokhlov	(Russia, CSKA Moscow)	+1	+2
41250	Igor Yanovsky	(Russia, Alaniya Vladikavkaz)	0	+1
41341	John Collins	(Scotland, Celtic)	+1	+3
41342	Scott Gemmill	(Scotland, Nottingham Forest)	0	0
41343	Gary McAllister	(Scotland, Leeds United)	+2	+4
41344	Siunnn McCall	(Scotland, Rangers)	+1	+4
41345	Billy McKinnay	(Scotland, Blackburn Rovers)	0	0
41346	Pat Nevin	(Scotland, Tranmere Rovers)	0	0
41441	Jose Luis Camlhero	(Spain, Atlético Madrid)	0	+3
41442	Dorato Gama da Silva	(Spain, Deportivo La Coruña)	0	0
41443	Jon Andoni Goikoetxea	(Spain, Athletic Bilbao)	0	0
41444	Josep Guardiola	(Spain, Barcelona)	0	0
41445	Julen Guerrero	(Spain, Athletic Bilbao)	0	+1
41446	Luis Enrique Martínez	(Spain, Real Madrid)	+1	+2
41447	Guillermo Amor	(Spain, Barcelona)	+2	+2
41448	Jose Emilio Amavisca	(Spain, Real Madrid)	+1	+2
41541	Thomas Bickel	(Switzerland, Vissel Kobe)	0	+0
41542	Christophe Bonvin	(Switzerland, Sion)	+1	0
41543	Sebastien Fournier	(Switzerland, Sion)	0	0
41544	Marcel Koller	(Switzerland, Grasshopper)	+1	+1
41545	Christophe Ohrel	(Switzerland, St Etienne)	0	0
41546	Ciriaco Storza	(Switzerland, Bayern Munich)	0	+3
41547	Alain Sutter	(Switzerland, Freiburg)	+1	+0
41548	John Voegel	(Switzerland, Grasshopper — RS)	+1	+2
41549	Murat Yakin	(Switzerland, Grasshopper)	0	0
41550	Alexander Comanetti	(Switzerland, Grasshopper)	0	0
41641	Oguz Cetin	(Turkey, Fenerbahce)	0	+1
41642	Abdullah Ercan	(Turkey, Trabzonspor)	+1	+2
41643	Tolunay Kafkas	(Turkey, Trabzonspor)	0	-1
41644	Tugay Kermoglus	(Turkey, Galatasaray)	+1	+0
41645	Keşkin Gokhan	(Turkey, Besiktas)	0	0
41646	Tayfun Korkut	(Turkey, Fenerbahce)	0	0
41647	Sergen Yalcin	(Turkey, Besiktas — RS)	0	+3
41648	Zeyir Raitim	(Turkey, Gencerbirligi)	0	+1
41649	Yigit Faruk	(Turkey, Kocaelispor)	0	0

GOLF

Curtis Cup defenders in confident mood

FROM JOHN HOPKINS
GOLF CORRESPONDENT
IN KILLARNEY

WITH music by Tina Turner, Queen, M People and Bob Marley blasting out on their team coach to urge them on, the women amateur golfers from Great Britain and Ireland will set out this morning to defend the Curtis Cup against the United States at the Killarney Golf and Fishing Club here in Co Kerry. The 1994 match, held in Chattanooga, Tennessee, ended level at 9-9, enabling Great Britain and Ireland to retain the trophy won at Royal Liverpool in 1992.

Cynics and chauvinists might consider the Curtis Cup to be an anachronism, an amateur event in the increasingly professional world. One counter to this argument is to cite the interest shown by BBC TV, which has scheduled a 40-minute transmission on BBC2 starting at 8.20pm on Saturday. Another is that, in the past ten years or so, this team event has followed the pattern of Ryder and Walker Cups and provided real excitement and genuine competition. Indeed, if the home team wins this contest then the Ryder, Walker

and Curtis Cups will all reside on this side of the Atlantic.

No longer is the Curtis Cup the one-sided affair it was for the first half century of competition, when the US failed to win only four of the 23 events. Great Britain and Ireland have won three and tied one of the past five matches.

What has caused the change in the balance of power? Carol Semple Thompson, who has competed on eight previous US teams, puts it down to improved organisation. "They have a squad system, we just name our teams. They practise together, we don't, although we managed a little this year. They have a lot of individuals playing college golf in the US. We Americans are not such an unknown quantity as we were once."

Janice Moodie and Mihairi Moore are both at American universities. "We're not in awe of them," Moodie, a self-confident 23-year-old said, before adding the words that summed up the change there has been in the past decade: "In fact, we are quietly confident of winning."

It was a stroke by Moodie that enabled Great Britain and Ireland to force a tie two years ago. Already

one up against Thompson playing the 18th, she hit a six-iron to within five feet of the flag to win by two holes and make sure of the 9-9 scoreline. "Janice is quite right in her attitude," Mickey Walker, captain of the Solheim Cup team and coach of this team, said. "The team is a good blend of experience and inexperience. They do not fear the Americans any more."

The Killarney course, which has been used for the Irish Open, has been prepared with narrow fairways, light rough and greens measured at eight or nine on the Stimpmeter.

Though some of the holes run alongside Lough Leane, the over-riding impression is of a parkland course set beneath some beautiful and brooding mountains. The putting green is surrounded by a riot of rhododendron bushes and, it being Ireland, nothing untoward is seen in the sign by the putting green which reads: Please keep off the grass.

TODAY: Opening Round (Great Britain and Ireland names first: J Hall (Folkestone Ferry and England) and L. Edwards (Canterbury and England) v E Port and K. Kuehling, A. Rose (Strling and Scotland) and L. Darnott (Royal Liverpool and Wales) v M. Jensen and B. Corrie-Moore; J. Moodie (Wendyhill and Scotland) and M. McKelvey (University and Scotland) v C. Rice and C. Semple Thompson).



Non-playing captains Ita Butler, left, and her US counterpart, Martha Lang, await the opening ceremony

Higgins lives up to expectations

FROM MEL WEBB IN MUNICH

AS THE son of a man whose ability to hit a ball vast distances has made him a cherished figure in Irish golfing folklore, David Higgins has a good deal to live up to. It does not seem to bother him unduly, and if he goes on producing rounds like the one he had in the first round of the BMW International Open here yesterday, it will be dad who is put in the shade before too long.

Given that his father is Liam Higgins, who is still able to send a golf ball on its way with the velocity of a howitzer shell, there was only ever going to be one way for Higgins Jr to make his living. A round of 64, eight under par, a shot ahead of Marc Farry, Phil Golding and Lee Westwood, proved that any parental pressure which might have been applied was entirely appropriate.

The young Higgins, 23, even now regards his father as his coach, but seems to see him as mentor rather than technical adviser. Just as well — the undisputed power of Higgins the elder is not quite matched by the elegance of his technique, and he would be the last to claim that it is. Included in Higgins's humiliation of the St Eustach course were six consecutive birdies from the 2nd hole, his eleventh.

It was not, however, the best run

of scoring he had had — when playing in the South African Tour qualifying school a couple of years ago, he was nine under par for the first seven holes of what became a career-best 63.

Meanwhile, a small slice of PGA European Tour history was enacted when, for the first time, a player was hit for his slow-motion golf not only in the wallet but also on his scorecard.

The man impaled on the sacrificial spit was Erol Simsek, a little-known German, who breached the tour's pace-of-play regulations three times and, after the last misdemeanour, had a one-stroke penalty and a £500 fine imposed upon him by Mike Stewart, the tournament director.

The tour has been empowered to impose a one-stroke penalty since January 1. An existing rule did permit a two-stroke penalty, but was widely felt to be too draconian to be useful.

The lack of urgency with which some professionals go about their business has become a thorny subject. Humble amateurs regularly get round in under three hours, some of their professional peers take 4½ and more. The only shame is that the sands of time did not run out on one or two better-known sloths than Simsek.

FOR THE RECORD

ATHLETICS

ATLANTA: United States Olympic trials. 400m: 1, M Johnson 49.45; 2, R Reynolds 50.2; 3, A Harrison 44.08; 800m: 1, J Gley 1m 44.05; 2, B Rock 1:44.84; 3, J Parfitt 1:44.58; Long jump: 1, M Powell 8.2m; 2, J Greene 8.24; 3, C Lewis 8.30; Hammer: 1, L Deal 76.00m; 2, D Popov 74.28; 3, N Wicks 73.58; Weight: 400m: 1, Malone 50.52sec; 2, J Miles 50.91; 3, K Graham 50.87; Discus: 1, S Powell 51.12; 2, L Barnes-Mitcham 50.66; 3, A Hill 50.04.

BASEBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Atlanta 5 San Diego 1; Cincinnati 10 Houston 7; St Louis 9 Philadelphia 2; Los Angeles 4 Chicago 3 (in 9); Colorado 7 Montreal 6 (in 10); Pittsburgh 6 New York 5 (first game); New York 5 Pittsburgh 3 (second game); San Francisco 7 Florida 4 (in 15m).

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Oakland 10 Detroit 3; Kansas City 6 Milwaukee 4 (in 10); Texas 5 Baltimore 2 (first game); California 14 Chicago 2; Cleveland 11 Boston 4; Toronto 9 Seattle 2; Philadelphia 6 Tampa Bay 1; Texas 9 New York Yankees 6; St Louis 5 San Diego 1.

BOWLS

WESTON-SUPER-MARE: Open tournament. Men's singles. Fourth round: R Jones bt A Taylor 21-18; R Gray bt B Crockett 21-13; A Burdett bt R Hodgson 21-12; W Gurnham bt B Cullen 21-10; Duggan bt R Spruce 21-8; A E Hole bt E Harding 21-20; Wood bt M Powell 21-12; Reed bt R Ashurst 21-17; J Stevens bt C Davidson 21-19.

TORQUAY: English Riviera Open tournament. Men's singles. Fourth round: O'Neill bt T Harrison 21-20; D Dawson bt B McCrory 21-19; M Williams bt S Thodge 21-8; J Evans bt R Brier 21-8; S Evans bt G Warren 21-16; P Pull bt B Remner 21-16; D Gurnstone bt R Johnson 21-19; M Arent bt M Gibson 21-15.

CRICKET

SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP (final day of three): Old Trafford: Yorkshire 235 (Keady 4-84) and 157 (C Brown 5-47, Keady 5-41); Lancashire 227 (de P S 100, 121 not out) and 137-8 (D Falder 4-87); Lancashire beat Yorkshire by four wickets. Alexander: Essex 286 and 281-7 dec (R Shaw 66); Leicestershire 318 and 241-5 (J M Dalton 115, G I Macrae 50); Lancashire bt Essex by five wickets. Northants: Durham 330 (R M Weston 92, G Longley 55, F A Griffiths 5-71) and 237-8 dec (S Nutton 133); Derbyshire 317-4 dec (D Twiss 134, J G O'Connell 119) and 212-7; Match drawn. Cambridgeshire: Worcestershire 259-6 dec and 314-4 (P Lyon 100, 148; Dewood 66 not out, J Pringle 55 not out, Navi 380; Match drawn. Antrim: Glamorgan 301 and 128-7 dec; Sussex 233-6 dec and 119-5; Match drawn.

OTHER MATCH (final day of three): Southampton: Middlesex 374-8 dec (P Mollins 157, G M Popley 58) and 275-2 dec (Mollins 128 not out, Popley 82); England Under-19 303 (G J Bailey 82 not out, J J Swann 82, K P Dutch 6-87) and 348-4 (M J Wood 53, D J G Salke 129 not out, England under-19 won by six wickets. Minor Counties Championship (final day of three): Falmouth: Cheshire 225-9 (A D Gressley 85 not out, J Webb 5-73) and 308-8 (J Cookson 66, J D Bean 56, J M Hands 4-108); Cornwall 281 and 214-8; Match drawn. Bedford: Northants 245-7 (C S Youl 101 not out) and 10-0; Cambridgeshire 229-3 (G W Eccles 129 not out, S A Kellard 66).

REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: The Puma 50 overs: Berkshire 132 (H Malt 7-30); Oxford University 118 (A Barnett 4-16, C West 4-11); Oxford University lost by 64 runs.

CYCLING

TOUR OF CATALUNYA: Sixth stage (20.4km time trial at Vilaseca): 1, A Zile (Swiss) 29m 53.33sec; 2, P Jorj (Aust) at 30:22; 3, F Moresu (Fri) 30:38; 4, P Salvadori 1:00.5; 5, M Fondriest (It) 1:00.6; 6, P Salvadori (It) 1:21. Overall: 1, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 2, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 3, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 4, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 5, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 6, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 7, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 8, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 9, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 10, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 11, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 12, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 13, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 14, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 15, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 16, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 17, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 18, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 19, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 20, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 21, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 22, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 23, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 24, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 25, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 26, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 27, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 28, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 29, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 30, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 31, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 32, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 33, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 34, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 35, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 36, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 37, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 38, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 39, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 40, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 41, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 42, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 43, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 44, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 45, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 46, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 47, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 48, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 49, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 50, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 51, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 52, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 53, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 54, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 55, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 56, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 57, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 58, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 59, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 60, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 61, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 62, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 63, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 64, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 65, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 66, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 67, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 68, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 69, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 70, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 71, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 72, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 73, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 74, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 75, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 76, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 77, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 78, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 79, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 80, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 81, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 82, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 83, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 84, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 85, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 86, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 87, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 88, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 89, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 90, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 91, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 92, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 93, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 94, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 95, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 96, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 97, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 98, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 99, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 100, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 101, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 102, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 103, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 104, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 105, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 106, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 107, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 108, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 109, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 110, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 111, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 112, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 113, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 114, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 115, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 116, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 117, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 118, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 119, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 120, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 121, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 122, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 123, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 124, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 125, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 126, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 127, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 128, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 129, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 130, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 131, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 132, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 133, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 134, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 135, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 136, Zile 20m 15m 15m; 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EURO 96

DAILY TEAM-BY-TEAM GUIDE

ENGLAND

David Baddiel and Frank Skinner, the men behind the new England anthem, *Three Lions* (Football's Coming Home), get a rousing reception from the Wembley crowd as they celebrate each victory from their vantage points in the Royal Box.

Baddiel and Skinner, the hosts of the BBC2 programme, *Fantasy Football League*, dance and jig in front of their seats as the rest of the stadium sings along with the lyrics when it is played over the loudspeaker system, but their popularity has not received official sanction from the object of so much of their admiration, Terry Venables.

Baddiel and Skinner come second only to Nick Hornby, author of *Fever Pitch*, in the pantheon devoted to heroes of the new football culture that has been sweeping the country for the past two years and has reached a new high with Euro 96. They are sought after as columnists by tabloid newspaper editors and the England team breaks into song whenever the tune is played on their coach on the way back to their Burnham Beeches hotel after each game.

But Terry Venables, the England coach, views *Fantasy Football* and the explosion of football culture around it as a commercial offshoot of the game. "It has become commercial," he said, "as England trained behind closed doors at Bisham Abbey yesterday. There are a lot of things jumping on board the football bandwagon and it has become vast. It is around the game, it is not the game. But people have done very well out of it."

CAUTIONS: Ince (2), Adams, G Neville, Shearer, Sheringham, Southgate

GERMANY

Germany's game with Italy on Wednesday night produced a few hangers yesterday morning, physically and mentally. After expressing his sympathy for Italy, Bert Vogts admitted that the game had given him some unpleasant lessons. "We can take satisfaction from emerging from the 'group of death' without conceding a goal," he said, "but the game was not to my liking. We never acted, we only reacted, and we didn't do that well. They played their 'pressing' game very well, but we gave the ball away far too often and too early, when not under pressure. There were a lot of misplaced passes. The game showed we still have a lot to learn, and showed us as far from being a very good team."

The Germans are also concerned about their defence. "Fortunately, Italy did not realise our situation, but if Helmer or Sammer had been injured, we didn't have another defender fit," Vogts said. Schneider injured himself in training on the morning of the match; Helmer, who was kicked behind the knee, was unable to jog yesterday, and Reuter was able only to jog. With Strunz suspended, and Köhler already back home, they are on their uppers defensively.

Wilfried Kienemann, the team doctor, was less concerned about the players' lack of fitness. "I believe he can last 90 minutes," he said. "There's nothing I can do to solve his alleged tiredness from a medical point of view. There is no medicine to solve his problem — it's in his head."

CAUTIONS: Babbal (2), Reuter, Häßler, Möller, Kuntz, Ziege, Bierhoff, Desai, Strunz

FRANCE

Aimé Jacquet, the France coach, is full of surprises. No one, though, expected his latest bombshell after he steered his country into the quarter-finals of Euro 96. Jacquet is considering quitting his position. It comes at the highest point of his career so far, when even his most severe critics are beginning to believe France can win the tournament, and no-body is taking any more about Cantona and Ginola.

Understandably, the French public is stunned, and so are the players. France are unbeaten in 26 matches, and their route to the final seems reasonably uncomplicated. But then Jacquet is a man of mystery, and he obviously feels it is time to introduce an element of doubt. "I must seriously think about my position. Maybe the team will need another style of person involved. Maybe it's a good time to change the coach," he said. "My contract is due to be renewed in one year's time, and I could have done that already, but I don't work that way. I need time for reflection and discussion, and the important thing is to ask what does one do now."

Jacquet suggested that he may prefer to stay involved with the national team in a different capacity, opening the way for him to become, perhaps, a technical director within the French association. It could just be, though, that he has recognised his stock is finally on the rise, and he is trying to cash in by soliciting support at an important time. If that is the case, then Jacquet beware... Terry Venables tried a similar tactic, and look what became of him.

CAUTIONS: di Meo, Blanc, Karembeu, Djorkaeff, Desailly, Dugary

PORTUGAL

As Italy moved out of their Sandbach headquarters yesterday to go home, Portugal moved in. Ironically, the move from Derby means they will be further away from Villa Park than they were at Breadsall Priory. The move means that they will not have to move on Monday if they get through the quarter-finals, though. It may also mean that they have inherited some beauty equipment at their training ground at Alsager, but they will have to wait until this morning's first session to see if the Italians have left their £10,000-worth of hair-drying equipment behind.

Portugal's players are more socially aware than many sportsmen. They have decided to dedicate Sunday's game to the children of East Timor, the former Portuguese colony in the East Indies where 200,000 have died since Indonesia invaded in the wake of Portugal's departure 20 years ago. The situation in East Timor is a major issue in Portugal at the moment. "It is like Iraq invading Kuwait," a team spokesman said, "and the players all feel very strongly about it."

They were less keen about being compared to Brazil in the enthusiasm for their performance against Croatia. "Anything which is written or said that is positive about us is gratifying," said Antonio Oliveira, the coach, po-faced as usual, "and we are happy to be compared to Brazil, but it is not useful. We are both Latin nations, but we are a Mediterranean country with its own traditions, own style and own individuality."

CAUTIONS: Paulinho Santos (2), Ocasio, Se Pinto, João Pinto, Paulo Sousa, Figo, Tavora

SPAIN

The breakdown between the Spain team and the Spanish media is complete. From a position, last week, of "man-to-man co-operation", there is now an intractable chasm. Things have got so bad that four players, Andoni Zubizarreta, Fernando Abela, Fernando Hierro, and Luis Enrique, held a meeting in an attempt to sort out their differences. They asked for peace until after Saturday's match at Wembley. The journalists declined the invitation.

It is the relationship between the coach, Javier Clemente, and several newspapers and television stations which has caused such anguish and disruption in the camp. During the peace meeting, which lasted two hours, the players pleaded for tolerance. The media were not sympathetic, suggesting that Clemente himself should have attended.

The Spain coach is a formidable character, and has not taken kindly to constant criticism of his defensive approach. He believes there is a personal campaign against him, and his protestations reached a vehement new height yesterday over stories that he punched a radio reporter. "It is simply not true," he said. "Things are being distorted."

The media remain unrepentant. "He must go. He is boring, and the team tactics a disgrace," one report suggested after the win over Romania. One dare not even wonder what might happen should Spain actually lose a game after a run of 20 matches without defeat.

CAUTIONS: Caminero, Sergi, Amor, Abela, Luis Enrique, Arnavic, Otero, Iko, Nadal

CROATIA

It barely escalated into a row but Miroslav Blazevich, the Croatia coach, received a cold response to the seven changes he made for the game against Portugal, which Croatia lost 3-0, at the City Ground on Wednesday. "The fair play award is important," Richard Molesley Nielsen, the Denmark coach, said. "There is fair play and there is fair play, I say no more."

Moster Nielsen's frequently dispirited Danes had achieved the result they needed — a 3-0 win over Turkey at Hillsborough — but they also required Croatia to beat the Portuguese at least 1-0 to progress into the last eight. Blazevich's mix-and-match line-up hardly helped them.

Ladic, the goalkeeper, was rested; Jarkan was recovering from a broken nose, and Stimar from an ankle injury. Stimar was not asked because of his yellow card against Denmark; and Asanovic, Boban and Suker made second-half appearances as substitutes. "It was the best team I had available," Blazevich said yesterday. Croatia are unlikely to be so depleted when they take on Germany in the quarter-finals at Old Trafford on Sunday. Jarkan's nose is on the mend, though he may have to play with a special protective mask, while Stimar's ankle trouble is also easing.

After lunch at their base in Rotterdam, the squad travels closer to Manchester this afternoon. They have requested a pre-match sample of Old Trafford at 4.30 tomorrow but Germany, as the designated "home" side, have first option. Subbed, pitches; it's always the same.

CAUTIONS: Asanovic, Boban, Soldo, Stimar, Prosinecki, Vucovic, Pantic, Jami, Pavlic

HOLLAND

Depression and disbelief still linger in the Holland camp after the 4-1 humiliation against England at Wembley. It will not have been helped by the 200-mile trek north yesterday, when they swapped their Hertfordshire headquarters for the Haydock Park Thistle hotel, near Merseyside.

It is where they will seek rest and recuperation before the short trip to the Anfield, 25 miles away, for their quarter-final against France, the unbeaten Group B winners, tomorrow night. Self-analysis is high on the agenda, in an attempt to pinpoint what went wrong, with Guus Hiddink, the Holland coach, trying valiantly to erase the horrors of Tuesday evening.

He might struggle, though, judging by some of the more considered, reflections yesterday. "We were so down in the dressing-room afterwards," Dennis Bergkamp, the Arsenal striker, said. "Guus was running around saying that at least we were still in the tournament, that we still had a chance, but it didn't do much good. We were so dejected."

Edwin van der Sar, the Ajax goalkeeper, was similarly stunned. "I don't think I've ever conceded so many goals, for Ajax or Holland. It's never happened to me before and I hope it doesn't again. It was terrible," he said.

Though physically unscathed and with no suspensions pending — Holland have six players on one yellow card — it will need every ounce of Hiddink's persuasive powers to convince his troops, and the orange supporters, that all is not lost. Meanwhile, the French, a cool and confident bunch, must be licking their lips.

CAUTIONS: Wacogne, Taument, Seedorf, Winter, Blind, Bergkamp

CZECH REPUBLIC

Like some bizarre western where, when the guns have stopped smoking, all that is left alive is a pimpled, skinny adolescent, the Czech Republic has escaped the "Group of Death". Was it honesty or bitterness that prompted Angelo Sacchi, the Italy coach, to say yesterday: "I believe both. Germany and Russia had the edge on the Czech Republic?" Needless to say, the Czechs were delirious after their 3-3 draw with Russia. They invited the press to join in the celebrations at midnight but, by the time they arrived, the players were too far gone down the path to oblivion to be allowed to mix with the media. "You can't go in there, it's a mess," a team spokesman said. Apparently the invitation had gone out as a psychological ploy to convince the players that qualification was possible. Several wives were at the lock-in, having turned up unannounced as a surprise. The remaining spouses flew into Preston yesterday.

The party has to wind down sometime, however, as Dusan Uhrin, the coach, said yesterday: "If we defend like we did last night then we stand no chance against Portugal." Uhrin praised the Portuguese as "a very good side with very good strikers". He took the wise precaution of ensuring that the hotel manager videorecorded the game between Croatia and Portugal. Uhrin has turned impossibility into an art form, but he admitted that, during the game against Russia, "my heart was beating 30 centimetres from my body but I was the calmest fan in the stadium".

CAUTIONS: Nedved (2), Kadlec (2), Duka, Belaj, Kuka, Suchoparek, Nemec

QUARTER-FINALS

Tomorrow
England v Spain
(Wembley, 3.0) BBC1

Sunday June 23
Germany v Croatia
(Old Trafford, 3.0) ITV

Tomorrow
France v Holland
(Anfield, 6.30) ITV

Sunday June 23
Portugal v Czech Republic
(Villa Park, 6.30) BBC1

SEMI-FINAL

REPORTS: Oliver Holt, Peter Ball, Russell Kempson, Alyson Rudd and David Maddock

SEMI-FINAL

WEMBLEY
Wed June 26 7.30

FINAL
WEMBLEY
Sun June 30 7.0 (BBC1 AND ITV)

OLD TRAFFORD
Wed June 26 4.0

HOW THE GROUPS FINISHED

Group	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
England	3	2	1	0	7	2	7
Holland	3	1	1	1	3	4	4
Scotland	3	1	1	1	2	4	4
Switzerland	3	0	1	2	1	1	1
France	3	2	1	0	5	2	7
Spain	3	1	2	0	4	3	5
Bulgaria	3	1	1	1	3	4	4
Romania	3	0	0	3	1	4	0
Germany	3	2	1	0	5	0	7
Czech Rep	3	1	1	1	5	4	4
Italy	3	1	1	1	3	3	4
Russia	3	0	1	2	4	1	1
Portugal	3	2	1	0	5	1	7
Croatia	3	2	0	1	4	3	5
Denmark	3	1	1	1	4	4	4
Turkey	3	0	0	3	1	5	0

GROUP A

England 1 Switzerland 1
Shearer (23) Turkeykmez (83 pen)
(Wembley, attendance 76,557)

Holland 0 Scotland 0
(Villa Park, attendance 34,363)

Switzerland 0 Holland 2
Cuyff (85) Bergkamp (78)
(Villa Park, attendance 38,800)

England 2 Scotland 0
Shearer (53) Gascoigne (78)
(Wembley, attendance 76,854)

Scotland 1 Switzerland 0
McCoist (37)
(Villa Park, attendance 34,826)

England 4 Holland 1
Shearer (23 pen, 57) Sheringham (51, 62)
Kluivert (78) (Wembley, attendance 76,798)

GROUP B

Spain 1 Bulgaria 1
Alfonso (73) Stokichov (65 pen)
(Elland Road, attendance 26,006)

Romania 0 France 1
Dugary (24)
(St James' Park, attendance 26,323)

Bulgaria 1 Romania 0
Stokichov (3)
(St James' Park, attendance 19,107)

France 1 Spain 1
Djorkaeff (48) Caminero (85)
(Elland Road, attendance 35,826)

France 3 Bulgaria 1
Blanc (20) Penet (85 og) Loko (50) Stokichov (88)
(St James' Park, attendance 26,978)

Romania 1 Spain 2
Raducioiu (29) Manjariu (11) Amor (83)
(Elland Road, attendance 32,719)

GROUP C

Germany 2 Czech Republic 0
Ziege (25) Möller (31)
(Old Trafford, attendance 37,300)

Italy 2 Russia 1
Casiraghi (5, 52) Tymbalar (20)
(Anfield, attendance 35,120)

Czech Republic 2 Italy 1
Nedved (4) Belaj (35) Chiesa (18)
(Anfield, attendance 37,320)

Russia 0 Germany 3
Sammer (58) Klinsmann (77, 80)
(Old Trafford, attendance 50,760)

Italy 0 Germany 0
(Old Trafford, attendance 53,740)

Russia 3 Czech Republic 3
Mostovoi (49) Tetrade (54) Suchoparek (6)
Beschastnykh (85) Kuka (19) Smicer (89)
(Anfield, attendance 21,123)

GROUP D

Denmark 1 Portugal 1
B Laudrup (21) Se Pinto (52)
(Hillsborough, attendance 34,993)

Turkey 0 Croatia 1
Vucovic (85)
(City Ground, attendance 22,460)

Portugal 1 Turkey 0
Couto (65)
(City Ground, attendance 22,670)

Croatia 3 Denmark 0
Suker (53 pen, 90) Boban (81)
(Hillsborough, attendance 33,671)

Croatia 0 Portugal 3
Figo (4) Julio Pinto (33) Domingos (53)
(City Ground, attendance 20,484)

Turkey 0 Denmark 3
B Laudrup (50, 84) Nielsen (70)
(Hillsborough, attendance 28,951)

PREVIOUS WINNERS

1990 USSR
1994 Spain
1998 Italy
1972 West Germany
1974 Czech Republic
1982 West Germany
1986 France
1990 England
1994 Germany

HONOURS

1990 Yugoslavia
1994 USSR
1998 Yugoslavia
1972 USSR
1974 West Germany
1980 Bulgaria
1984 Spain
1988 USSR
1992 Germany

LATEST BETTING

7-4: Germany
3-1: England
3-2: France
8-1: Holland
10-1: Portugal
12-1: Spain
14-1: Croatia
18-1: Czech Republic
Odds by Ladbrokes

LEADING SCORERS

4: A. Shearer (England)
3: B. Laudrup (Denmark)
H. Stokichov (Bulgaria)
2: P. Casiraghi (Italy)
J. Klinsmann (Germany)
E. Sheringham (England)
D. Suker (Croatia)

ENGLAND v SPAIN

ENGLAND
Form: Record (v Spain): P 17, W 10, D 2, L 5, For 35, Against 20.
Last meeting: 0-1 (1982, Wembley, friendly in Scotland).
Best result: 7-1 (1923, Wembley, friendly at Highbury).
1996 form (including Group A games): W W W D W W (1-0 Bulgaria, 0-0 Croatia, 3-0 Hungary, 3-0 China, 1-1 Switzerland, 2-0 Scotland, 3-1 Holland).
Tournament statistics
Goals scored: 7
Goal attempts (total): 37
Goal attempts (on target): 20
Corners won: 9
Offsides: 7
Free-kicks conceded: 52
Scorers: Shearer 4, Sheringham 2, Gascoigne.

SPAIN
Form: Record (v England): P 17, W 5, D 2, L 10, For 20, Against 35.
Last meeting: 1-0 (Foscoia) (1992, friendly in Scotland).
Best result: 3-0 (1955, friendly in Madrid).
1996 form (including Group B games): W D D W W (1-0 Norway, 0-0 Norway, 1-1 Bulgaria, 1-1 France, 2-1 Romania).
Tournament statistics
Goals scored: 4
Goal attempts (total): 34
Goal attempts (on target): 19
Corners won: 17
Offsides: 15
Free-kicks conceded: 61
Scorers: Alfonso, Caminero, Amor, Manjariu.

GERMANY v CROATIA

GERMANY
Form: Record (v Croatia): P 3, W 3, D 0, L 0, For 12, Against 12.
Last meeting: 5-1 (Wittenberg, 2 F. Walter, Kings, friend) (1992, friendly in Stuttgart).
Best result: 5-1 (Wittenberg, 2 F. Walter, Kings, friend) (1992, friendly in Stuttgart).
1996 form (including Group C games): W W W D W W (2-1 Poland, 3-0 South Korea, 2-0 Israel, 4-1 Hungary, 0-0 England, 2-2 Republic of Ireland, 1-0 Turkey, 3-0 Russia, 0-0 Portugal).
Tournament statistics
Goals scored: 4
Goal attempts (total): 40
Goal attempts (on target): 19
Corners won: 12
Offsides: 7
Free-kicks conceded: 61
Scorers: Klinsmann 2, Ziege, Möller, Sammer.

CROATIA
Form: Record (v Germany): P 3, W 0, D 0, L 3, For 3, Against 12.
Last meeting: 1-5 (Woll) (1992, friendly in Stuttgart).
Best result: Croatia has never beaten Germany.
1996 form (including Group D games): W W W D W W (2-1 Poland, 3-0 South Korea, 2-0 Israel, 4-1 Hungary, 0-0 England, 2-2 Republic of Ireland, 1-0 Turkey, 3-0 Russia, 0-0 Portugal).
Tournament statistics
Goals scored: 4
Goal attempts (total): 40
Goal attempts (on target): 19
Corners won: 12
Offsides: 7
Free-kicks conceded: 61
Scorers: Suker 2, Boban, Vucovic.

FRANCE v HOLLAND

FRANCE
Form: Record (v Holland): P 17, W 7, D 2, L 8, For 30, Against 43.
Last meeting: 1-0 (Loko) (1985, friendly in Utrecht).
Best result: 5-2 (10/12/50, friendly in Paris).
1996 form (including Group B games): W W W W W W (2-2 Portugal, 3-1 Greece, 2-0 Belgium, 2-0 Finland, 3-0 Germany, 2-0 Armenia, 1-0 Romania, 1-1 Spain, 3-1 Bulgaria).
Tournament statistics
Goals scored: 5
Goal attempts (total): 26
Goal attempts (on target): 16
Corners won: 15
Offsides: 20
Free-kicks conceded: 67
Scorers: Dugary, Djorkaeff, Blanc, Loko.

HOLLAND
Form: Record (v France): P 17, W 8, D 2, L 7, For 43, Against 30.
Last meeting: 0-1 (18195, friendly in Utrecht).
Best result: 8-1 (2/4/23, friendly in Amsterdam).
1996 form (including Group A games): L L W W D W (0-1 Germany, 2-0 China, 3-1 Republic of Ireland, 1-0 Scotland, 2-0 Denmark, 1-4 England).
Tournament statistics
Goals scored: 3
Goal attempts (total): 46
Goal attempts (on target): 22
Corners won: 31
Offsides: 11
Free-kicks conceded: 42
Scorers: Jorri, Bergkamp, Kluivert.

PORTUGAL v CZECH REPUBLIC

PORTUGAL
Form: Record (v Czech Republic): P 9, W 3, D 3, L 3, For 6, Against 10.
Last meeting: 0-0 (15/11/89, World Cup qualifier in Lisbon).
Best result: 2-1 (14/10/84, World Cup qualifier in Oporto).
1996 form (including Group D games): L L W W D W (2-3 France, 1-2 Germany, 1-0 Greece, 1-0 Republic of Ireland, 1-1 Denmark, 1-0 Turkey, 3-0 Croatia).
Tournament statistics
Goals scored: 5
Goal attempts (total): 34
Goal attempts (on target): 15
Corners won: 11
Offsides: 17
Free-kicks conceded: 55
Scorers: Se Pinto, Joao Pinto, Domingos, Couto, Figo.

CZECH REPUBLIC
Form: Record (v Portugal): P 9, W 3, D 3, L 3, For 10, Against 6.
Last meeting: 0-0 (15/11/89, World Cup qualifier in Lisbon).
Best result: 5-0 (10/4/75, European Championship qualifier in Prague).
1996 form (including Group C games): W W L W D W (2-3 France, 1-2 Germany, 1-0 Greece, 1-0 Republic of Ireland, 1-1 Denmark, 1-0 Turkey, 3-0 Croatia).
Tournament statistics
Goals scored: 5
Goal attempts (total): 33
Goal attempts (on target): 15
Corners won: 15
Offsides: 12
Free-kicks conceded: 59
Scorers: Nedved, Belaj, Kuka, Suchoparek, Smicer
includes records as Czechoslovakia

مركز الامم

Paper tigers roar chorus of disapproval for Sacchi

By ALYSON RUDD

THE Italy football team left their high-security haven in Cheshire yesterday and flew home to Milan, where their early exit from the European championship finals has been greeted with an anguish that would have been more appropriate had the Pope turned to Buddhism.

Italian disgust does not run deeper than this. The headlines screamed: "Masters of waste," "It's Over," "Italy, the Perfect Crime." The 0-0 draw with Germany on Wednesday night put the World Cup finalists in the same boat as the more modest footballing nations of Turkey and Scotland, who will also be taking no further part in the tournament.

The blame has not been

diluted among the players. Only one man is viewed as responsible: Arrigo Sacchi, the coach.

"He's brought our football to the point of a burning mortification: that of leaving a 16-team European championship at the first round," the candid, and appropriately named, Candido Cannavò, editor of *La Gazzetta dello Sport*, wrote.

He continued: "Italy's elimination bears the stamp of the enormous sin of pride felt by the coach and transmitted to the squad with devastating psychological consequences." According to Cannavò, Sacchi committed the "perfect crime." He described Italy's elimination as having the "grotesque and scornful air of a dishonourable defeat."

The odds were stacked

against Sacchi from the start. He returned from the World Cup in the United States, having taken his side to the final, but was nevertheless greeted with calls for his resignation. Having lost to Brazil in the lottery of a penalty shoot-out, the Italian press and public, although despondent, regarded his side as the best in Europe. Only by winning Euro 96 would Sacchi avoid criticism. Now that Italy have failed to reach even the quarter-finals, his detractors are in their element.

The "anti-Sacchi club", based in Florence, celebrated the defeat. "If Italy is out, it's all his fault," they shouted. Sacchi, who used to sell shoes for a living and was the first national coach to have been chosen from outside the ranks



The Italian press laments the Euro 96 humiliation

of the Italian football federation, knew what the reaction would be and predicted that, if Italy failed, tomatoes could be aimed at his small, bald

head. An understandable dislike of tomatoes has lain with every Italy coach since 1966, when they were knocked out of the World Cup by North

Korea and their supporters pelted the players with vegetables on their arrival home.

"Don't throw tomatoes at Arrigo," was the front page request of *La Stampa* yesterday. In a rare outbreak of sympathy, the paper said it would be cowardly to attack the coach.

Those who are close to Sacchi describe him as warm-hearted and polite and dedicated to the team. He is unpopular among Italians for his approach to the game. The popular belief is that Sacchi dislikes players with flair, individuality and leadership qualities.

He surprised everyone by leaving Roberto Baggio, Vialli and Signori, three popular and successful players, out of the squad for Euro 96. "I know some people in

Italy are enjoying the defeat," Casiraghi, the Italy forward, said. "People love Sacchi or they hate him — there is nothing in the middle."

With echoes of the way Graham Taylor was treated by the British tabloids during his tenure as manager of England, the Italian press portrays Sacchi as a blind man and questions how long he will stay in charge.

Yesterday, Sacchi was defiant: "If my contract had been conditioned by the result of Euro 96 I would not have signed it, and I signed it only two months ago," he said of his new, £800,000-a-year, deal.

With increasing desperation, Sacchi turned to the German media. "The German press today say Germany were lucky, defend-

sive and sterile, whereas the Italian football was creative, attacking but unlucky," he said at the final press conference at the Alsager Manchester Metropolitan University campus the players have used for training in the past fortnight.

The campus catering staff scuttled back and forth grabbing autographs and taking snapshots of each other with the players. "Oh, what a nice fella," one of them said after Casiraghi had smiled at the camera for the umpteenth time.

The Italians said they liked the "homely" atmosphere of the campus. As the sarcasm and disgust back home continues, you could understand why.

Leading article, page 23

Character the key to first-round successes

I DO not know if you can bottle the "feel-good" factor aroused by England's mighty performance against Holland on Tuesday but, certainly, the FA is banking on it. It sold the allotted tickets for the quarter-final confrontation against the uncompromising Spanish tomorrow in next to no time the next morning, and when 5,000 more, returned by Spain, came back on the market yesterday, the gold rush started again.

One dare not risk accusations of treason, dare not dilute this euphoria by doubting the belief of Teddy Sheringham that England are now the equals of Brazil: let us wait for Wembley tomorrow to confirm that. But, truly, the essence of what England did to Holland — and Holland admit they feebly allowed — was down to character.

Spain have plenty of that: witness the way that they have come from behind in two of their matches, and the way that they have scored goals in the last 15 minutes of all three. As the gloves come off, as the tournament turns the corner from a first round in which winning was not the only thing, Spain, with ten of their players already disciplined under the refereeing strictures, will certainly not run

ROB HUGHES



Football Correspondent

manager, Arrigo Sacchi, believing that the system was greater than the players, sought to change them as if they were lightbulbs. He turned off the current, lost to the Czech Republic, and then met his end in the dour defensiveness put up by Germany at Old Trafford.

As he returned to his fate in Rome yesterday, one felt desperately sorry for Sacchi, reduced from arrogance to a broken humility before our eyes. The son of a shoe company retailer, he was sent packing by the team of Bert Vogts, the son of a shoemaker. This demonstrates that, for all their easy wealth, they are ordinary men. It also shows the transience of football euphoria.

Remember Denmark? The champions of four years ago were eliminated, as was expected, in the first round. Except that it was not the team of '92: this week, only Peter Schmeichel, Brian Laudrup and Kim Vilfort remained, and so cruel is the sport that six of Denmark's glorified team have actually finished their careers, all but one of them under the age of 30.

Torben Frank, Henrik Andersen and Flemming Povlsen, all fine attacking players, became victims of knee injuries, and Povlsen has been in England only as a television commentator. Claus Christensen, badly concussed in a league match, quit for a job in the civil service. Kim Christofte retired early to work in the computer industry, and Lars Elstrup joined a religious order. Possibly all of them slipped into the shadows more quietly than John Jensen, whose fate was to join Arsenal, and to become the player whose transfer in part cost George Graham his job, though this very week comes news that Rune Hauge, the agent behind the deal, is allowed to work as a "transfer consultant" under Fifa licence.

Fickle, did I say? The Bulgarians, flattered by individuals but not a team that could concentrate for three games, have gone to the Czech Republic, like Croatia driven by new nationalism, are in the quarter-finals. All of them should hold what they have, for outside of this tournament comes another salutary tale. Algeria was angered to the point of crying foul when Fifa, the world governing body, overlooked its bid to stage the World Cup in 1998. Last week the team was eliminated in the qualifying rounds by Kenya, so, this week, the king and his government banned the national coach and his deputy from working in football for life, and dissolved the national federation and the league. Play up, Teddy Sheringham, prove that you have Brazilian status.

Coach's conscience in safe hands

David Maddock finds that Zubizarreta adds unaccustomed discipline to Spain's snorting bulls

As is the way with tournament play, one decent win and suddenly every follower of England is already looking to the European championship final. Spain? Pahl! Who are they to prevent a nation from dreaming?

Who, indeed? The present squad is barely known outside its own borders, and has not yet impressed in reaching, fortuitously, the quarter-final stage. There, though, the dreaming stops, because Spain are not Holland and Wembley will not witness such defensive generosity a second time.

Javier Clemente, the Spain coach, is serious in his assertion that he has the best defence in the world. It is no coincidence that the unit is marshalled by Andoni Zubizarreta, the veteran goalkeeper.

Spain have been less than convincing in their frustrating search for a cohesive forward line, but defensively they are as tough and as uncompromising as a snorting bull, and Zubizarreta's influence as captain is immense.

"Zobi", as he is known to his teammates, is, like Clemente, a Basque, and he is the coach's conscience on the pitch, keenly implementing Clemente's disciplinary doctrine.

Typical Hispanic flair has been subjugated in favour of defensive determination, but Zubizarreta is unrepentant, despite an almost hysterical reaction in the Spanish press. England must expect, he said, a demanding contest.

"For so long we have not realised our promise at a national level because we have been lacking in such an important area," he said. "We have no discipline and that has prevented us from becoming champions."

"Now our coach has given us a recognisable identity. We have teamwork, strength and sheer determination. England must understand we are different, we are uncomfortable to play against. There is criticism, sure, but our coach is correct. We are unbeaten in 20 matches and in the quarter-final, and to me that justifies everything."

Clemente projects a philosophy that Zubizarreta, 34, is comfortable with. The latter's



Zubizarreta will win his 110th cap when Spain play at Wembley tomorrow

Basque mentality gives him a work ethic unmatched in the Spain camp, and will bring him his 110th cap tomorrow.

It also makes him highly suspicious about outsiders, his brooding eyes almost forbidding personal questions. He has conducted, partly in defence of the persecuted Clemente, a long-running feud with his country's media and only this week finally got them banned from staying in the team hotel.

His answers are therefore generally from the "sick as a parrot" school of cliché, but, like so many Basques, he has an affection for the English and visibly softens when he looks forward to the quarter-final.

In particular, he has admira-

tion for Terry Venables, the England coach, and for good reason. When Venables was in charge at Barcelona, he signed Zubizarreta and stood by him during an uncomfortable first season. "Terry Venables is a fine coach and a fine man," he said. "He showed faith in me and supported me through an incredibly difficult first year with Barca."

"There were real pressures, ones that I find painful to look back on, but Mr Venables was above it. He encouraged me and ultimately I stayed and won four leagues and the European Cup. I have him to thank for that."

Zubizarreta will share a drink with his former coach after the game tomorrow, and

he believes that it could be Venables seeking to drown his sorrows. A keen student of the English game, he has recognised the expectation engulfing England after their impressive display against Holland. It will bring, he believes, pressures that England are unused to.

"We are tough, very tough, and that will be a frustration for England," he said, "but whatever happens, it will be an experience to play at Wembley. I know many people have criticised the English and I know it is just a slogan, but, for me, there is a real sense that football is coming home. There is a tradition here in this country, a history that gives this particular tournament a special flavour."

Mottram carries Scotland's flag into semi-finals

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

ONE of the jokes doing the rounds during the early stages of Euro 96 begged the question: "What do you call a Scotsman in the knockout stages?" Answer: "A referee."

Such dastardly Sassenach humour backfired yesterday when Leslie Mottram, of Scotland, was appointed to officiate at either a semi-final or the final. David Ellery and Dermot Gallagher, England's representatives in the tournament, have been ignored.

Mottram, 45, who was born in London, is one of three nominees for the closing matches, alongside Sandor Puhl, of Hungary, and Pierluigi Pairetto, of Italy. The referee left out for the semi-finals — at Old Trafford and Wembley, on June 26 — will take charge of the final, at Wembley on June 30.

Of the chosen few, Puhl can be assumed to be the favourite. Though he cautioned seven players in the match between Portugal and Turkey, which Portugal won 1-0 at the City Ground, Nottingham, a week ago, his track record is impressive. He joined the Fifa (football's international governing body) list in 1989 and refereed at the European championship finals in Sweden in 1992. He also controlled the 1994 World Cup final, between Brazil and Italy, in the United States.

Mottram has been recognised by Fifa for the past five of his 15 years as a referee and he, too, officiated in the United States two years ago. During his opening match of Euro 96 — Italy's 2-1 victory over Russia at Anfield — he booked five players.

His selection was confirmed after a four-hour meeting of

Uefa's (the sport's governing body in Europe) referees' committee, which is chaired by Sir Bert Millichip, the chairman of the Football Association, at Old Trafford on Wednesday.

"Different criteria are used," Frits Ahlstrom, Uefa's media director, said yesterday. "First, you have to ask: 'How did they do in their group game?' Then, you have to look at if they have refereed the teams recently and if they had any problems. We always go for the top referees, but that doesn't necessarily mean that the best referee will get the final."

England's qualification for



the quarter-finals did not help the causes of Ellery or Gallagher. Neither did Ellery's brandishing of ten yellow cards during the match between Germany and the Czech Republic, nor Gallagher's cameo appearance of only 28 minutes, because of injury, in the game between France and Bulgaria.

"I'm sure you would prefer your team to be still in," Ahlstrom said.

QUARTER-FINAL REFEREES: Spain v England (M. Berti, France); France v Holland (A. Lopez, Italy); Spain v Croatia (A. Sundell, Sweden); Czech Republic v Portugal (H. Krug, Germany).

Fate reserves judgment on Croatia

Simon Barnes says that timidity and spoiling tactics have no place in sport

The goal of Euro 96 thus far is GAZZA, and the team performance is England's, but the finest individual match was played by Davor Suker, of Croatia, with an almost voluptuous display against Denmark. It was thus with a bounce in my stride that I walked through the streets of Nottingham to see if he could do it all again as his team took on Portugal on Wednesday.

I collected my team sheet and eagerly scanned the names. All the Croatia stars were there: Suker, Ananovic, Boban, Stanic, Jerkan, Boksic. What a line-up. Trouble is, they were all on the bench. Croatia started the match with a team full of reserves.

They had already qualified for the quarter-finals, so what need to worry? They were keeping their powder dry. They were protecting players carrying strains and niggles. They were keeping back players who had picked up yellow cards. You can call it cute, call it canny, call it clever. Call it logical, or Machiavellian. I call it pusillanimous, small-minded and small-souled. I arrived at the City Ground hoping for Croatian glory.

Long before kick-off, I was hoping that they would come unstuck.

After four minutes they did, and they went on to lose 3-0. Of course, they still qualify. They play Germany on Sunday afternoon, and had said before the match that they were the opponents they wanted, so jolly well done. But it really seems to me a wretched way to behave.

There are certain tactics in sport that deserve to fail, not because they are ruthless but because they are pusillanimous. They are tactics that are not exactly against the rules, but they cut against all one's notions of what sport is about. This is so much the case that when any team, even the team dearest to one's heart, employs them, one is filled with cosmic rage, and hopes ferociously that it fails. It is small-souled, it does not deserve to work. My own *bête noire* is the offside trap. Well, how can four men running away from the ball be anything to do with football? It

is not what the offside law was invented for, it is not what football was invented for, and I do not see how any attacker is seeking to gain an advantage when all the defenders are running away from him.

Most sports have such tactics. I fly into a temper when I see a batsman kicking a spinning ball. This is not part of the contest between bat and ball. It's not cricket and it's not sport.

Baseball's classic example is the intentional walk. At certain stages of the game, a renowned hitter will be offered four pitches he cannot reach. The fielding team would sooner advance him to first base than risk him hitting the ball. No matter which team is involved, anyone with sporting blood in his veins yearns for the next batter to send the ball into orbit.

By their pusillanimity, Croatia lose more than the fawning of neutrals. They lose momentum. With Italy, the same tactic was gratifyingly

self-defeating. With Croatia, we will see, but the fact is that football tournaments are won by a team that grows, that expands, that gets better from match to match, acquiring individual confidence and corporate self-belief. Croatia, by being clever-clever, have forfeited an important stage in the growing process.

I remember talking to Steve Davis about the idea of being a snooker hustler: playing badly to entice your opponent to bet his all and then playing properly to defeat him. For Davis, the idea was a kind of blasphemy. "You can't take liberties with the balls," he said. "The balls don't forget. The balls won't forgive you."

This is perhaps a mystical way of saying that if you seek greatness at sport, you must school your mind only to thoughts of victory. Sport is a simple business, but very dangerous for those that try and play tricks with it. Or, as the anonymous head had said: "God knows, you've got no chance with a race like the Derby. The bastards are all trying."

AN EXCLUSIVE TIMES COMPETITION

Win tickets to the Euro 96 final

Plus win a 29in Dolby Pro-Logic JVC television worth £900

The Times, in association with JVC, offers 25 readers the chance to win a pair of tickets to see the final of Euro 96 at Wembley on June 30.

To enter the competition you will need to collect three tokens — three from the six printed in *The Times* this week or two tokens from *The Times* and the token which appeared in *The Sunday Times*.

JVC is the official hi-fi, TV and video systems supplier of Euro 96. The star-prize winner will also receive a 29in Dolby Pro-Logic JVC television worth £900.



HOW TO ENTER

You will need three tokens to enter this JVC competition. You can also use the token which appeared in *The Sunday Times*. Answer the question on the entry form which appeared on Monday and post it with your three tokens to: *The Times/JVC Euro 96 Competition*, 11 Whitefriars Street, London, EC8R 7NG. The winners will be selected at random from all correct entries received by first post Tuesday June 25, 1996 and contacted by June 27.



TOKEN 5



هكذا من الأصل

RIP Arthur, in that final flowering wilderness

So Arthur Fowler got a lovely send-off, and gruesomely authentic it was too. Last night's *EastEnders* (BBC1) was written by the veteran Tony Jordan, and he hit the bathos of the funeral ritual perfectly: obscure bearded aunts running an eager, practised eye over the flowers; people asking "How are you bearing up?" The DAD-shaped floral tributes even the opinionated stranger who spouts fascism over the sausage rolls. A funeral we may seem a funny time to discuss the mystery of television banking, but only if you've never been to one.

Wendy Richard — on whose weary head widowhood fits so snugly it's a wonder Arthur didn't cop it long since — sat ignored at the wake while people dropped clangers about roadworks. It all seemed very real. Slightly detracting from the verisimilitude, however, the cast looked so damned

fine in black that you suddenly remembered they were handsome people, in fact they were — oh yes, actors.

Take it from me, today the phones at the BBC will be buzzing with requests for Mark's funeral oration, or I'm not riding this bike. It was a big emotional moment. Standing before the congregation, tears in his eyes, he said he'd been scanning the Bible for weeks for a relevant passage (not true, he's a liar) and had finally found a poem in one of Michelle's old textbooks. Pauline blinked up at him, young Martin paid attention (which is all you can expect).

"I know you my father was..." Mark began, and as witness descended on the collective cheek, the sanctification of Arthur was complete. It wasn't a terribly good poem but it was odd of Tony Jordan not to make an attribution. If he composed it himself, perhaps he hopes to have a bestselling

pamphlet on his hands, à la W.H. Auden.

Several questions presented themselves, of course. Where was Mrs Hewitt? How could Arthur ever have looked like a young Frank Sinatra? Did Bill Treacher have to lie in the pine box, or is he in Majora with a big gin and tonic? But most important, what is to be done about ten-year-old Martin, now that he is big enough to be played by a real actor and his family are dropping like flies? In soap operas, angels, angelic non-acting children of a certain age live under a visible shadow, like the Princes in the Tower.

The return of *Men Behaving Badly* (BBC1) for a new series was almost too much excitement to bear. On Tuesday England beat Holland 4-1, and now this. Hello Gary mate! Hello Tony mate! Tony (Neil Morrissey) returned from a basking tour of

REVIEW



Lynne Truss

Europe to find that Dorothy (Caroline Quentin) was moving into the flat. You see, although things remain essentially the same in *Men Behaving Badly*, in a crucially paradoxical way they also move on. Sorry to get technical, but we critics have to sound erudite or people might suspect we are paid to sit in front of the telly all day with the curtains drawn and a vat of crisps.

Mostly, the appeal of *Men Behaving Badly* is the astonishingly reliable quality of the gags. "You know how much I like Tony," urged Dorothy arguing that he should be thrown out. "Yeah, enough to sleep with him," agreed Gary quickly.

Tony wanted to know if Debs would fancy him with a moustache. Gary (Martin Clunes) couldn't see a problem. "Tash, paper bag on your head, car parked on your face. All the same to her." For connoisseurs, however, last night's episode will be best known (and lovingly remembered) for the running cushion gag and the sublime introduction of the larger mit, a "labour-saving device" bought in a "tag-souvenir shop" in Munich, which turned Clunes into a version of Dr Strangelove, very weird. But when he started speaking, it was stranger still. Words such as "deeming" and "wondrous" and "Villa Borghese" tripped lightly off the tongue of the

"Aaaah!" and hid behind the kitchen counter. "Take anything you want but don't hit my face." This was still funny on the third or fourth viewing, so I laughed again. But it's like politely saying "Oh really?" to spare somebody else's feelings, and I resent it.

A considerably blokish evening for me was rounded off with Ross Kemp of *EastEnders* (Grant Mitchell) presenting a Cliveden item in *One Foot in the Past* (BBC2). Grant Mitchell at Cliveden — the idea took some getting used to, especially since Grant's usual instinct with venerable buildings is to burn them down. As he walked towards us, surrounded by unaccustomed greenery and fountains, the effect was very, very weird. But when he started speaking, it was stranger still. Words such as "deeming" and "wondrous" and "Villa Borghese" tripped lightly off the tongue of the

musclebound landlord whose biggest linguistic flourish on screen is usually "No matter what." It would only have required him to produce a pair of reading glasses and I would have fainted.

As he roamed the grounds, he told a rather off-colour story about an outdoor production of *As You Like It* in which an elderly woman was stretched out during the Seven Ages speech. Not funny, Grant. But I admired his pluck in dressing up as the Duke of Buckingham, with curly wig and frock-coat. Didn't Sharon play Nell Gwynne in something last year? What is this *Walford* fascination with the 17th century?

Finally, having said last week that non-football networks ought to show movies, I now find that Channel 4 is screening *Okla-homa* and *Show Boat*, that kind of thing. Now how about that?

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (44686)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (Ceelex) (75057)
9.00 Breakfast News Extra (Ceelex) (215773)

9.20 Morning Surgery (s) (1821978)
9.50 Fighting Back: Mike Nolan (1030402)
10.20 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (s) (1955686)
10.45 News (Ceelex) and weather (348315)

10.55 Cricket — Second Test: England v India. Tony Lewis introduces live coverage from Lord's (7745033)

1.00pm News (Ceelex) and weather (78044)
1.30 Regional News and weather (3690315)
1.35 Neighbours (Ceelex) (s) (3568186)

1.55 Royal Ascot 1996 and Cricket — Second Test: Julian Wilson and Clare Balding introduce racing action from the final day of Royal Ascot; plus live coverage, from Lord's, of the Second Test (s) (9523404)

5.35 Neighbours (s) (Ceelex) (s) (818112)
6.00 News (Ceelex) and weather (222)
6.30 Regional News magazines (334)
7.00 Top of the Pops (Ceelex) (s) (9624)

7.30 **FUTURE FANTASTIC: THE X FILES** (1180222) *Future Fantastic: The X Files* presents a glimpse into the future, merging fact and fiction (Ceelex) (s) (518)

8.00 Big Break. Jim Davidson hosts the snooker game show in which celebrity players put on behalf of contestants. Tonight the pros are Dennis Taylor, Andy Hicks and Jimmy White (5044)

8.30 The Olympic Games. Steve Rider hosts a sports quiz as the countdown to this summer's Olympic Games in Atlanta starts. The team captains are Daley Thompson and Steve Cram, with guest Olympians Mary Peters and David Wilkie (Ceelex) (4179) N.L. 8.30 Anderson on the road 10.15 9.59 11.05 P.M. Freekick

12.00 News (Ceelex) and weather (7518)
9.30 9.59. Michael Buerk and Juliet Morrissey present another chance to see some of the most dramatic reconstructions from the series, including the rescue of a policeman impaled on railings, a diver fighting for his life in a decompression chamber and a paedophile who fell 200 feet down a sheer cliff on the Isle of Wight (Ceelex) (s) (34247)

10.20 FILM: Freekick (1992) with Emilio Estevez, Mick Jagger, Anthony Hopkins and Amanda Plummer. Racing driver Alex Furlong is fatally injured in a crash but awakens 18 years later in 2010 to discover that New York has turned into an even more dangerous place and that he has become part of a sinister experiment. Directed by Geoff Murphy (44315)

12.00 Royal Ascot 1996. Highlights of the fourth and final day of Royal Ascot (s) (8093667)

12.20 FILM: The Ghoul (1974) with Peter Cushing, John Huxley and Alexandra Bastedo. On a trip to Land's End, a party of friends are separated and the two girls are abducted and taken to the home of Dr Lawrence, a former clergyman who has lost his faith and hides a gruesome secret. Directed by Freddie Francis (Ceelex) (1248681)

1.45am Weather (1614803)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes
The numbers next to each TV programme listing are VideoPlus+ numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder to record a programme. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. VideoPlus+ is a trademark of Gemstar Development Ltd.

BBC2

6.00am Open University: Diabetes (639063) 6.25 Seville (637570) 6.50 Pierza (3871824)

7.15 See Hear Breakfast News (514179)
7.30 Smurfs: Adventures (1825044) 7.55 The Really Wild Show (7243957) 8.20 Secret Life of Toys 8.40 The Record (6375501) 9.05 The Natural World (1250686) 10.00 Playdays (2605353)

10.25 The Fugitive (54) (7685337)
11.15 Camp Wilder (s) (4270680) 11.40 The Addams Family (s) (2191893)
12.05pm Great Crimes and Trials of the 20th Century (1825570)

12.30 Working Lunch (62773) 1.00 Secret Life of Toys (4567497) 1.15 Open View (4449872) 1.20 Carver's Caribbean (45654112)

1.35 Cricket — Second Test: England v India (85652781) 3.55 News (7485614) 4.00 Tax Avey (5907599)

4.05 **TO ME... TO YOU. QUIZ** (1180222)
4.30 Clarissa Explains It All (131) 5.00 Newsround (Ceelex) (1159713) 5.10 Blue Peter (Ceelex) (s) (1756228)

5.35 Cricket — Second Test and Tennis. Continued coverage from Lord's. Plus women's tennis from Eastbourne (5071971)

7.15 Watch Out (488976)
7.30 Going, Going, Gone (s) (Ceelex) (s) (850) N.L. 7.30 Hearts and Minds

8.00 Top Gear Motorsport. Featuring reports from the fourth round of the World Rally Championship: Eurocar action from Brands Hatch and a rally celebrating the centenary of the British motor industry. Last in series (Ceelex) (s) (3686)

8.30 Gardeners' World. Featuring a birthday tribute to nursery man Alan Bloom (Ceelex) (s) (4241)

9.00 The High Life. Last in series (s) (Ceelex) (s) (8860)

Baddiel and Skinner (9.30pm)
2.30 European Fantasy Football League. Presented by David Baddiel and Frank Skinner (2/3) (82537)

10.00 Friday Night Armistice. Satirical comedy show (36860)

10.30 Newsnight (Ceelex) (828241)

11.15 Cricket — Second Test: England v India. Highlights (856112) WALES: 11.15 Lobby (962860) 11.30 Cricket (576824) 12.00pm Golf (2223377) 1.00 Weather (833367) 1.05-2.45 FILM: The Obscure Object of Desire (125352)

11.55 Golf — The Curtis Cup. Highlights of the women's team competition between Great Britain and Ireland and the USA (from Kilmarnock) (20204)

12.40 FILM: The Obscure Object of Desire (1977) With Fernando Rey and Carole Bouquet. Luis Buñuel's final film is a wicked satire. (In French with English subtitles) (131445) Ends at 2.26am

THE DISNEY CHANNEL
Sky Movies Gold takes over from 10pm

6.00am Quack Attack (2064660) 6.30 Ducktales (4357188) 7.00 Quack Attack (2064660) 7.30 Ducktales (4357188) 8.00 Ducktales (4357188) 8.30 Ducktales (4357188) 9.00 Ducktales (4357188) 9.30 Ducktales (4357188) 10.00 Ducktales (4357188) 10.30 Ducktales (4357188) 11.00 Ducktales (4357188) 11.30 Ducktales (4357188) 12.00 Ducktales (4357188) 12.30 Ducktales (4357188) 1.00 Ducktales (4357188) 1.30 Ducktales (4357188) 2.00 Ducktales (4357188) 2.30 Ducktales (4357188) 3.00 Ducktales (4357188) 3.30 Ducktales (4357188) 4.00 Ducktales (4357188) 4.30 Ducktales (4357188) 5.00 Ducktales (4357188) 5.30 Ducktales (4357188) 6.00 Ducktales (4357188) 6.30 Ducktales (4357188) 7.00 Ducktales (4357188) 7.30 Ducktales (4357188) 8.00 Ducktales (4357188) 8.30 Ducktales (4357188) 9.00 Ducktales (4357188) 9.30 Ducktales (4357188) 10.00 Ducktales (4357188) 10.30 Ducktales (4357188) 11.00 Ducktales (4357188) 11.30 Ducktales (4357188) 12.00 Ducktales (4357188) 12.30 Ducktales (4357188) 1.00 Ducktales (4357188) 1.30 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RACING 42

CLASSIC CLICHE
WINS GOLD CUP
AT ROYAL ASCOT

SPORT

FRIDAY JUNE 21 1996

GOLF 46

CURTIS CUP TEAM
PREPARES DEFENCE
IN CONFIDENCE

Unbroken fifth-wicket stand tilts Lord's Test balance away from India

Thorpe and Russell rally England

LORD'S (first day of five; India won toss): England have scored 238 for five wickets against India

NO MAN who has visited purgatory would lightly risk a return and Mohammed Azharuddin, who does nothing from a position of strength these days, will have needed a deep draught of courage before putting England into bat yesterday. The India captain took the same decision when they last played a Test match at Lord's and stood by helplessly as England amassed 663 for four. For the intervening six years it has been high on his list of career regrets.

Second time around, however, there were subtle differences. For one thing, no one looked capable of emulating the triple-century by Graham Gooch, a spectator yesterday. No one, indeed, looked capable of much at all until late on a dank, dark day, when batting remained a constant challenge as the ball swung and seamed generously.

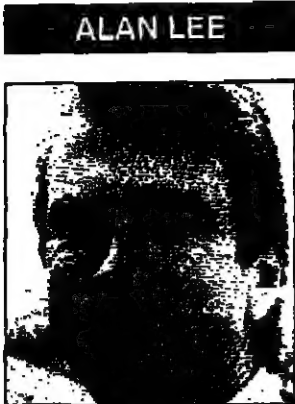
That Azharuddin's memory bank was not thoroughly purged was due to an unbroken sixth-wicket stand worth

Michael Henderson — 47
Champion's struggle — 47
Clement Friend — 50

131 between England's two left-handers, Graham Thorpe and Jack Russell. Without their resolve, India would probably be batting by now, and the pre-match odds of 6-1 against them winning a two-horse race would seem still more of an insult.

England still have a great deal to do if their psychological supremacy is not to be surrendered, but they will feel that this opening day of the second Cornhill Test might have been a good deal worse. India can hardly be unhappy with their day's work but, come the end of the game, they may yet look back upon it as an opportunity lost.

For England to lose only one wicket before lunch, after a start delayed for 30 minutes by drizzle, was a considerable achievement. They might easily have lost four or five, such were the demands posed by Srinath and Prasad. By contrast, batting became more straightforward during the second session and yet four wickets fell, each of them the result of an unforced error.



Cricket
Correspondent

Only in the third, distinct section of an intriguing day did the bat begin to dominate. Thorpe and Russell playing assertive yet never reckless cricket against a tiring, straying attack. Russell, in particular, batted as if he felt that this was his day, and that a second Test century was his for the taking.

Thorpe was more circumspect, perhaps recognising that he is too good a player to be so regularly out short of 100 and intent on doing something about it. He will resume this morning requiring 15 runs to begin correcting the worrying imbalance of his England career that, thus far, he has been out 17 times between 50 and 99 and only twice made it into three figures.

A century at Lord's, however, continues to elude Michael Atherton. The England captain had gladly acquiesced in an elaborate guard of honour for the final Test-match entrance of Dickie Bird who, cheered tumultuously, tottered to the middle wiping away tears, but who recovered in time to raise his finger dramatically after the fifth ball of the game. Atherton, who might justifiably have believed the break-back from Srinath was doing too much to hit leg stump, departed with a rueful grin.

There were only two scoring strokes in the first half-hour and neither Alec Stewart, exhibiting a new stance with his feet further apart and his left foot withdrawn to leg, nor Nasser Hussain survived without alarms. Srinath's first spell of seven overs brought him one wicket for five, an understated reward for outstanding seam bowling. The support bowlers were, if



India congratulate Srinath as Atherton, the England captain, walks off yesterday, leg-before without score to the fifth ball of the day

anything, a mite too short to be truly effective, and it was well into the afternoon before the partnership was ended, and then by courtesy of a poor shot. Stewart's footwork let him down as he went across his stumps rather than forward to an inswinger of full length from Srinath. Two hours of vigilance had brought him only 20, insufficient to guarantee his future.

Thorpe is never the most reassuring of starters, but between a couple of confident appeals for leg-before and a blow on the hand, he announced himself with the confident driving and pulling of a

man in prime form. Soon, however, he cut a solitary figure as England inexplicably lost three wickets for nine and subsided to 107 for five.

Two of the wickets fell to the spirited medium pace of Sourav Ganguly within his first 15 balls in Test cricket. As he had not taken more than one in an innings on tour, this was quite something. Hussain, driving away from his body and caught jugglingly by second slip, will chastise himself for squandering so much stolid attrition. Graeme Hick, who drove clumsily to mid-off,

did not even have the attrition to console him.

When Irani was bowled behind his legs, moving too far across his stumps against Prasad, England were perhaps one wicket from calamity, but that wicket never fell. Thorpe playing with ever more command while Russell scampered, deflected and, just occasionally, offered a shot of engaging excellence. It has been a delightful, potentially decisive stand, but with ten overs remaining, and the new ball just taken, the day had an appropriate end. Bird brought the sides off for bad light.

LORD'S SCOREBOARD

India won toss	
England: First Innings	0
(20 min, 5 bats)	
A J Stewart b Srinath	0
(12 mins, 51 balls, 3 fours)	
N Hussain c Rishabh b Ganguly	36
(17 mins, 110 balls, 5 fours)	
G P Thorpe not out	05
(22 mins, 149 balls, 9 fours)	
G A Hick c Srinath b Ganguly	1
(10 min, 9 balls)	
R C Brent not out	1
(4 min, 2 balls)	
1R C Russell not out	06
(16 min, 118 balls, 7 fours)	
Stewart 50.9, 10.8, 12.12	
Total 50 runs, 80 overs, 35 mins	238
C C Lewis, D G Cork, P J Mann and A D Murray to bat	
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0 (Stewart 0), 2-67 (Hussain 34), 3-98 (Thorpe 26), 4-102 (Thorpe 29), 5-107 (Thorpe 33).	

SCORING: Srinath 22-51-2 (10 4; 8 balls; 7-4-5-1, 7-2-1-1, 5-0-3-0); Prasad 20-4-4-1 (5 balls; 5-3-4-0, 4-1-5-0, 5-2-3-1, 5-0-1-1); Atherton 15-1-5-0 (10 6; 6 balls; 4-1-1-5-0, 5-0-2-0, 6-0-1-0-0); Ganguly 12-3-34-0 (4 balls; 1-0-5-0, 5-2-3-0, 2-1-4-0); Ganguly 9-1-36-2 (10 2-3; 10 balls; 1-0-2-2, 3-0-1-0-0); Tendulkar 2-1-1-0.

SCORING NOTES: First day: Lunch: 38-1 (21 overs, 52 mins; Stewart 5, Hussain 29). Test: 144-5 (53 overs, 242 min; Thorpe 47, Russell 21). Second new ball: 238-5 (80 overs at 6.20 pm).

INDIA: V Rishabh, IN R Mongia, S C Ganguly, S R Tendulkar, M Azharuddin, A Jadeja, R Dravid, A Kumble, J Srinath, P L Mervin, B K V Prasad.

Umpires: H D Bird and D B Hall (Australia). Third umpire: A G T Whitfield. Match referee: C W Smith (West Indies).

RESULT: First Test (Edgbaston): England won by eight wickets. To come: Third Test (Trent Bridge): July 3 to 5.

CL Compiled by Bill Francis

Adams may miss quarter-final

By OLIVER HOLT

TERRY VENABLES was given a day of grace on Wednesday, a day to savour the high point of his coaching career and reflect on the demolition of Holland. Yesterday, though, the forces that drive Euro 96 relentlessly on ended his reverie and forced him to count the cost of victory and confront the old sparring partner standing in his path.

The members of the team that defeated Holland 4-1 at Wembley on Tuesday night took part in only the lightest of training sessions on Wednesday and left the England camp happy that they had emerged unscathed, save for Gareth Southgate's slight hamstring strain. When the real work resumed behind closed doors at Bisham Abbey, though, it seemed out two vital members of the team.

Tony Adams, the Arsenal

defender, who played his best game of the tournament so far against Holland, was forced to miss training with a recurrence of a knee problem. Darren Anderton, the Tottenham Hotspur winger, who is gradually finding his form, was also sidelined with a hamstring strain. Both are considered doubtful for the quarter-final against Spain at Wembley tomorrow.

The loss of either would be a heavy blow, especially as Venables had already steered himself to make one change to the team that started all three group matches because of the suspension of Paul Ince. Cover is short in central defence, especially since Steve Howey injured his ankle while on a training run early in the tournament.

Adams's problem is the inflammation of scar tissue arising from the knee operation that forced him to miss



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much of the latter half of last season. Sol Campbell, of Tottenham Hotspur, would be the obvious replacement and Steve Stone, the Nottingham Forest midfielder player, would be drafted in, offering a more conventional diet of crosses and wide play than the roving role that Anderton enjoys.

Venables was encouraged by news that Howey and Jamie Redknapp, who twisted his ankle late in the game against Scotland on Saturday, resumed light training yesterday, but he will be unwilling to risk anyone short of full fitness against a brawny Spain team moulded in the aggressive image of Javier Clemente, their coach.

He knows Clemente of old, from the days when they were involved in domestic Catalan squabbles rather than international showdowns. When Venables was in charge at Barcelona, Clemente ruled the roost at Espanol, the city's second side and traditional poor relation, and the feathers often flew.

"He is a tough little customer," Venables said. "He seems to like aggravation with the press and thrive on it. We had a few feuds when we were on different sides of the divide in Barcelona, but they were all about foolish things that seemed important at the time. It always ended up quite jolly because there was respect between us."

"He stands his corner very well and he did away with the star system in the Spanish team. When he took over in 1992, he went towards having a young team that he could build on rather than flavours of the week like Michel and Butragueno, players who thought they were guaranteed a place in the line-up."

Only Zubizarreta, the goalkeeper, and Amor, out of the players Venables had in his charge when he was coach of Barcelona, are still in the Spain side, but he admitted that the match would be special for him because of the associations and friends he still has in Spain. "That gives it an extra flavour," he said, "but it could hardly be any more exciting anyway."

Clemente mauled by the media

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN MADRID

THE Spanish press has turned up the volume of its criticism against Javier Clemente, the national coach. The indignation, however, has nothing to do with on-pitch tactics.

It is, instead, the bitter fruit of an off-pitch spat between Clemente and a radio journalist from Madrid that is creating an acrimonious atmosphere in the Spanish camp as the twin towers of Wembley loom on the horizon.

After the match against Romania on Tuesday, a reporter for the SER radio station was interviewing the goalkeeper and saviour, Amor. Clemente, who was angry with SER over its constant sniping at him and his side, charged up to Amor

and ordered him to "stop talking to that *hijo de puta*" — "son of a bitch" is the politer rendition in English.

The streetwise reporter replied: "The only *hijo de puta* I can see here is you."



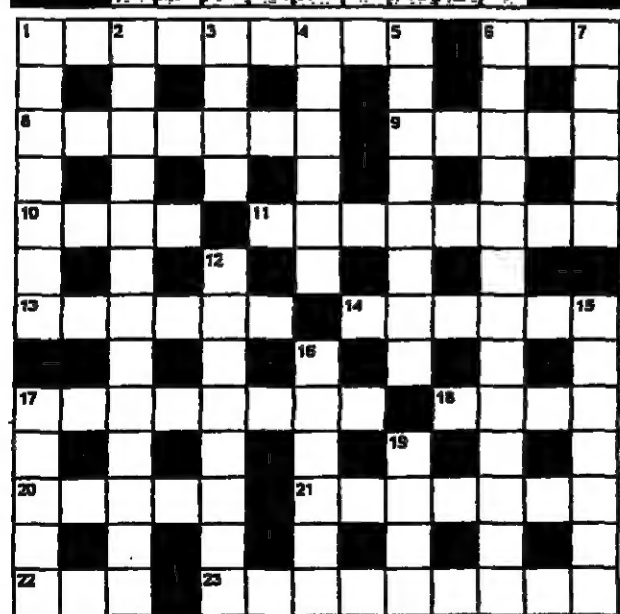
Clemente: under fire

Clemente then grabbed the reporter's microphone and shoved him hard against the wall, before other players intervened and the two were separated.

Clemente apologised publicly, but the Spanish press appears unprepared to accept his contrition.

The Madrid Press Association went on the offensive, "lamenting profoundly the deplorable spectacle". In an editorial yesterday, *El Pais*, the Madrid daily newspaper, said: "This is not the first time that Clemente has shown his incapacity to accept criticism. His excess merits punishment unless, that is, the Spanish football federation believes that anything is permitted in our football."

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



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The solution to No 813 will be published Wednesday, June 26

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Future of Hill in balance as Renault withdraws

By OLIVER HOLT

DAMON HILL, clear leader in the race for the Formula One motor racing drivers' championship, last night hinted that the surprise announcement by Renault that it would quit the sport at the end of next season might affect his future with the Williams team.

"I am going to be footloose and fancy-free at the end of the season anyway," Hill, whose one-year contract with Williams expires in December, said, "and this could have a bearing on my future. But it is still too early to think about it really. All my energies are going to be concentrated on winning the championship."

The French carmaker announced in Paris yesterday that it would cease its involvement in the sport from the end of the 1997 season. It gave no distinct reasons for the decision, but it is thought that falling car sales and possible widespread redundancies made Renault sceptical about the wisdom of ploughing £40 million a year into Formula One with Williams and Benetton.

The announcement will spark a scramble to find new alliances and speculation was already rife yesterday that Honda, which enjoyed so much success with McLaren in the 1980s, may step into the breach. Honda has been a partner of Williams before and it is likely that it would choose the team again instead of Benetton.

Renault has long been considered the producer of the most powerful engine in the sport and its combination with Williams's engineering made it a near-unbeatable partnership, although Michael Schumacher put a dent in the domination in 1994 when he won the drivers' championship in a Benetton-Ford. That prompted Renault to move to Benetton so that it could take Schumacher on board, too, although he has since moved to Ferrari.

Since re-entering Formula One in 1989 with Williams, Renault has helped the team to 49 grands prix wins, three constructors' titles and two drivers' championships. Nigel Mansell and Alain Prost both won titles in cars powered by Renault engines and Damon Hill looks set to win another one this season.

No. 6501

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